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HISTORIC SPECIAL EDITION

She lies at peace as her people bid solemn farewells

Picture: DARREN FLETCHER

Lost in their own thoughts on a day of overwhelming sadness

A time for reflection: His face a study in grief, Prince William – alongside his solemn wife, Kate – leaves Westminster Hall yesterday after the

Picture: EMILO MORENATTI / AP

body of his grandmother the Queen was taken there to lie in state. Behind, his brother Harry and wife Meghan exchange a sombre glance

Hallowed ground: High on a catafalque and draped in the Royal Standard, the Queen's coffin rests serenely in Westminster Hall. Her family,

Picture: DAN KITWOOD / GETTY

led by King Charles, paid their heartfelt respects before the public began to file in for the lying-in-state which lasts until 6.30am on Monday

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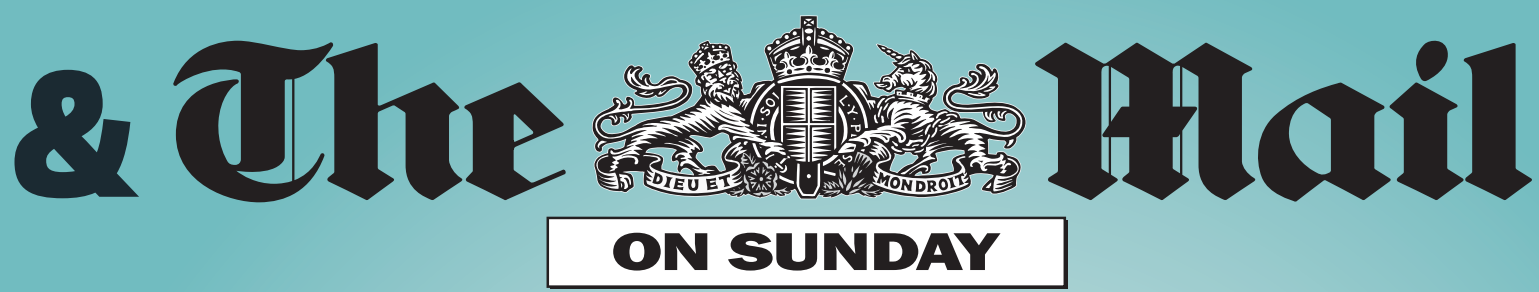

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I watched the silent sepulchral tide flow, then slow to a halt... dumbstruck

by ROBERT HARDMAN

MAJESTY. Pure majesty. No other word does justice to the spellbinding sight which awaits those lucky enough to reach the end of what will be one of the longest queues in living memory.

Last night, I watched this silent, sepulchral tide flow, then slow, then come to a dumbstruck halt.

For as you turn the corner into the vaulted masterpiece of Westminster Hall, you are confronted by a vision of timeless, incomparable grandeur.

'A snapshot of the Britain she loved'

You stand at the top of the mighty flagstone staircase leading down into this country's most ancient and august gathering place – the same steps from which the Queen herself would address both Houses of Parliament on her jubilees and other great anniversaries.

And it hits you between the eyes like a searchlight.

Behold the longest-reigning – and many will say greatest – monarch in the thousand-year story of these islands lying in state in the very heart of our democracy.

Resting on her Royal Standard-draped oak coffin, atop its purple-draped catafalque, is not just the Imperial State Crown but also the Orb and Sceptre. It is their first appearance alongside the late sovereign since her coronation in 1953.

No wonder everyone stops in their tracks.

In two lines, they then step slowly down the staircase to the main hall and shuffle ponderously either side of this monumental centrepiece. Once level with the coffin, everyone bows. Some curtsey, too.

One man performs a double, palm-pressed 'namaste' and drops on to the deep, sand-coloured carpet to touch the floor.

A few weep openly. One middle-aged woman tries to hold it together but then her face melts and she buries it in a turquoise pashmina.

A few are dressed smartly for a funeral, in suit and tie or black dress and hat. Most are dressed for the five-mile queue which they have just endured uncomplainingly.

Here before them is the essence of constitutional monarchy writ glorious in silk, diamonds, silver, velvet, sapphires, pearls, halberds, breastplates, swords, oak, brilliantly-buffed boot leather, Norman stonework and so much else.

Yet here, too, are trainers, anoraks, hoodies and jeans in the presence of Her Late Majesty. Why not? This is simply a snapshot of the 21st-century Britain she loved and served every bit as diligently as the cap-doffing Britain which squeezed into its Sunday best before filing past her darling father in 1952.

There is no dress code here, merely a rigidly imposed ban on photography (official photographers are there to capture the scenes you see here).

Here is a two-way act of recognition – our late sovereign paying

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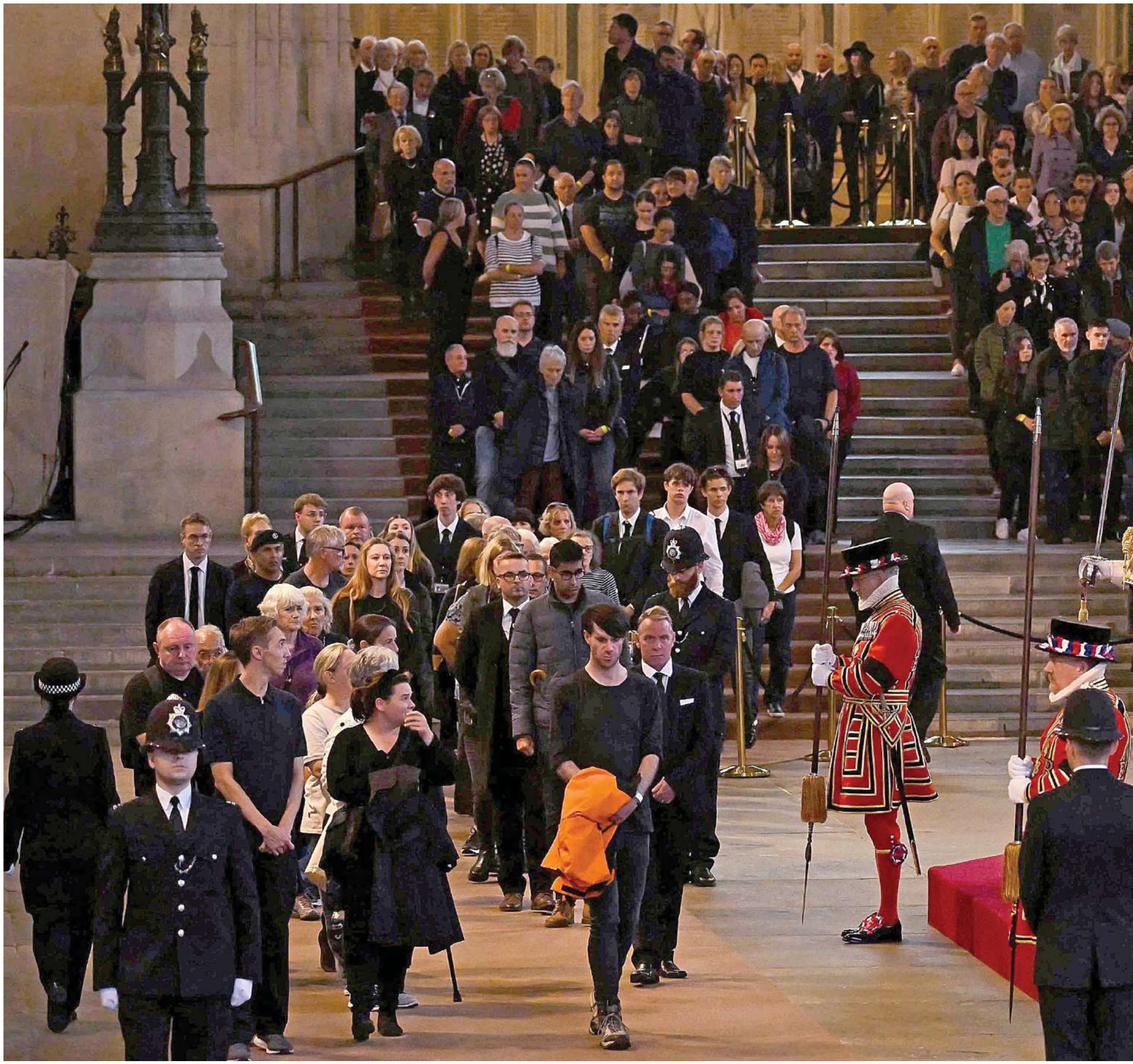
A nation's loss: Queen Elizabeth II's coffin is carried past the Queen Consort,

Picture: TIM ROOKE/SHUTTERSTOCK

the Princess of Wales, the Countess of Wessex and the Duchess of Sussex into Westminster Hall yesterday afternoon



A vision of timeless, incomparable grandeur: Members of the public – many of whom had been queueing for more than 48 hours – file past

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homage to her people as they in turn pay homage to her.

They are all ages, all races, all shapes and sizes. It is incredibly touching that, in the space of half an hour, I count three people with white sticks being guided through. No matter that they cannot see the candle light bouncing off the First Star of Africa – the greatest diamond in existence – from its setting in the head of the Sceptre.

You don't have to see the glint of the Orb to know you are in the presence of authentic greatness. You can feel it, too.

Indeed, as you pass alongside the huge wreath of white roses, dahlias, lavender and pine – all of them fresh from Windsor or Balmoral – you can smell it, too.

I see mobility scooters. A few couples have come with children. One has a baby. All life is here.

In this great chamber, the Queen's father and mother lay in state, too. So did her first (and greatest) prime minister, Sir Winston Churchill.

Yet, this is the same hall in which Charles I was tried and sentenced. The equilibrium between Crown and state which underpins our constitutional settlement was forged beneath these soaring hammerbeam arches of ancient oak.

This will be the scene around the clock until the crack of dawn on Monday.

Guard upon guard stands watch – three tiers of them at any one time, rotating their duties around the clock.

All those ancient bodies so proud to call themselves the Queen's bodyguards – her Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, her Yeomen of the Guard, her Royal Company of Archers, her Household Cavalry and her Foot Guards – are more than honoured to play their part. This is almost an act of military communion with their late commander-in-chief, for whom they were, historically, the closest line of defence. All stand with head bowed.

On each corner, too, stands a bowing Metropolitan Police officer, presumably just in case.

Thankful will be those who saw her here

Keeping a keen eye on everyone are the doorkeepers of the Palace of Westminster. Smartly dressed they may be in their tailcoats, but they are never to be messed with.

Yet in the course of half an hour, I do not see them approach anyone.

They are there to give a gentle nudge to any dawdlers, not that anyone outstays their welcome. I time 50 mourners and each spends an average of four seconds stopping and bowing, before moving off again.

Then they speed up and move at a steady pace for the great door at the far end.

There, many turn back and simply gaze in near-disbelief at what they have just experienced.

'We will never see anything like this again in our lifetimes, and certainly not with the person who served as a sovereign for so long and did it so well,' says Moya O'Shea, a Londoner who hails from Australia and is here on behalf of friends back home 'who couldn't be'.

Penny Purnell, a pensioner from Littlehampton, and spent all day getting to the front of the queue. She admits she is struggling to accept the loss of the Queen, even after seeing all this: 'That was quite hard to take.

'It was just the thoughts in our head of appreciating her really. I didn't really want to say goodbye, so I didn't.'

There is a delay to the proceedings every 20 minutes as the commanding officer taps his staff twice on a step. All must pause for three minutes while there is a silent Changing the Guard.

The mourners are thrilled by this hold-up. It only adds to the sense of occasion.

And so every facet of humanity – for the Queen represented them all – flocks to experience a few magical minutes which all will take to their grave.

Thus, for now at least, Elizabeth II really is *our* Queen.

Thankful, truly, will be those who saw her here.

Picture: BEN STANSALL / AFP

the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Hall yesterday. The Queen will lie in state until a few hours before Monday's funeral

Dazzling tribute: The Imperial State Crown on Her Majesty's coffin

Glittering with diamonds, the crown jewel of the ceremony

By **Vanessa Allen**

SPARKLING with 3,000 precious jewels, the Imperial State Crown was one of the dazzling treasures laid on top of the Queen's coffin yesterday.

It contains some of the most famous jewels in the royal collection including the 317-carat Cullinan II diamond, the Stuart Sapphire and the Black Prince's Ruby.

Created in 1937, the crown is set with 2,868 diamonds, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds, 269 pearls and four rubies.

Also set in the top cross is St Edward's Sapphire, which is said to have been worn by St Edward the Confessor and was discovered in his tomb in 1163.

It was made for the coronation of the Queen's father, King George VI, and was worn by Her Majesty every year for the State Opening of Parliament.

Sitting next to the crown was a wreath of the Queen's favourite flowers. It included pine picked from her Balmoral estate and pittosporum, lavender and rosemary from her gardens at Windsor.

The wreath, which also included white roses and dahlias, also served as a touching tribute to her late husband. Dahlias can symbolise a lasting commitment between two people – perhaps a poignant reference to her 73-year marriage with Prince Philip.

Both the crown and the wreath sat atop the Royal Standard.

First mourners in

Tears, doffed hats, curtseys and respectful silence from sad subjects

By **Izzy Lyons**, **Isabelle Stanley** and **Connor Stringer**

ROYAL superfans who queued for days to be the first to get a glimpse of the Queen's coffin broke down in tears when they finally got their chance to say goodbye.

Distraught mourners paid their respects yesterday after the doors of Westminster Hall were opened for Her Majesty's lying in state.

Some doffed their hats while others curtseyed as they passed through the hall in a final show of respect.

Among the first to pour through the doors of the Palace of Westminster for the historic occasion was Vanessa Nanthakumaran, who was at the front of the queue after joining it at 11.30am on Monday. 'It's a unique and a historic moment and I wanted to pay my respects so it was well worth waiting for,' the 56-year-old Londoner said after 53-and-a-half hours in the queue.

'Don't take us to your leader... take us to Westminster Hall!'

'It was an emotional experience. I was fighting back tears as I approached the coffin and I managed to dignify myself. I wanted to do something so I said prayers for the Queen, thanked her for her great service and wished her peace and rest.'

Alongside her was Delroy Morrison, a father-of-five from Wembley, north-west London, who was the fourth person to enter. Describing the moment he saw Her Majesty's coffin, the carpenter said: 'I paused for a moment, doffed my hat to my Queen and said, "Thank you, you have done a good job right up to the very end." '

Mr Morrison, 61, slept on the pavements in the wind and rain alongside hundreds of others – a community they nicknamed 'The Village' – to be among the first to pay their respects. When he was asked why he showed such commitment to say farewell, Mr Morrison replied: 'My Queen is gone and she is not coming back.'

He was joined by Mellissa Di Roma, a 34-year-old royal enthusiast from Italy who said she recently moved to the UK because of Her Majesty's influence.

Crying uncontrollably, Miss Di Roma said: 'I just waited for so long just to see her. It's an honour to be here in the UK, to be part of this.

'For this big occasion I... took the train and then I arrived at midnight [yesterday], and since then I've been queuing for this honour, just to say thank you and goodbye.'

June Allen-Westbrook, 78, had travelled from near Leeds Castle with her friend Janice Cook, 67.

Miss Allen-Westbrook, who was in a wheelchair, said: 'It was just overwhelming. They didn't rush us, I had time to cross my heart and pay respects. There will just never be anyone like her again.'

Eight-year-old Louis was one of the youngest mourners, attending alongside his parents. He said: 'I really liked the lighting and the ceiling.' His mother, Zohr Fatima, said: 'It's the end of an era.'

Clare Paul, 63, from Surrey, went through the hall with Victoria Farrow, 40, from Kent, who she met in the queue.

'It was all done to perfection,' Miss Paul said. 'It was absolutely moving and the love in that room, well... you could feel it.'

Husband and wife Joanne and Alastair Simpson said they felt 'surrounded by history' as they visited the Queen's final public resting place.

Mrs Simpson wiped a tear from her eye as she said: 'As soon as I entered it hit me. I did a curtsy and thanked her. She called what she did duty, but I call it love.'

She added: 'We were stood at front when they changed the guard so we had longer with her. It was

IN PRESENCE OF MAJESTY... PEOPLE AND THEIR QUEEN

Paying their respects: The first in the queue file past the coffin, including Vanessa Nanthakumaran with her wristband, circled

Queue E2: Miss Nanthakumaran, far left, with Anne Daley and Grace Gothard, had been waiting since Monday morning

the Elizabeth line

Overwhelmed: June Allen-Westbrook, front, and Janice Cook after leaving the hall

You could feel the love: Clare Paul and Victoria Farrow, who met in the queue

End of an era: Zohr Fatima with husband Stephen and eight-year-old son Louis

Overcome by history: Tearful Joanne Simpson with her husband Alastair

Pictures: MARK LARGE

amazing – everything was so perfectly timed and the crown was up there glistening.'

After joining the queue at 11.35am on Monday, Anne Daley, 65, was the second person to see Her Majesty's coffin.

'It was a shattering experience, really, and incredibly upsetting,' she said as she left the Palace of Westminster.

Grace Gothard, from Mitcham, Surrey, struggled to find the words as she fought back tears. After pausing and collecting her emotions, she said: 'It reminded me of my own mother. May the Queen rest in peace.'

The sentiment was shared by others who said they were so moved by the experience because they felt the Queen was part of their family.

Ann Corrigan, a mother-of-one who travelled from Swindon to attend the commemoration, slept on the pavements along the Thames in wet weather with no more than an umbrella – but said it was worth it to get one final goodbye.

'I think everyone felt like she was part of your family,' she added. 'I liked the way she united the country. It didn't matter about your party politics or religion, she respected and cared for us all.'

Holding back tears, the 67-year-old said: 'The room was very, very solemn, majestical.'

Monica Farag, 61, was the tenth person in the queue. As she left Westminster, she broke into tears and clutched a white feather which she believed was a message from the Queen.

'As I got out there, the bird just dropped this feather for me. It is from the Queen,' she said.

'As a Catholic, I did a sign of the cross and said my little prayer and did a courtesy.

'It is privilege and an honour. There are no words to explain the feeling I have.

'It was well worth the wait and all the rain. It was very sad but absolutely wonderful.'

Max Hoene, 23, travelled from Cologne, Germany, just to see the lying in state.

'I think there are lots of young people who love the Queen and who were very impressed with all that she did,' he said.

Mr Hoene, along with thousands of other mourners, will return to the streets of Westminster on Monday for the Queen's funeral.

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No Hollywood movie would dare dream up such a spectacle

JAN MOIR
View from the sofa

THE nation's broadcasters were called upon once more to transmit the melancholy glory of another day in the death of our Queen.

And amid the massing of the military, resplendent in their scarlet and gold, complete with ceremonial trimmings of frogging and ruff, one question burned. How many more last journeys could Elizabeth II make?

'The Queen will leave for the final time shortly,' said Anna Botting for Sky News.

'The Queen will leave Buckingham Palace for the very last time,' said Chris Ship for ITV. And even once the journey began, no one was sounding the last post for the last time. 'Now passing under the great arch for the last time, Queen Elizabeth II,' solemnly intoned the BBC's Fergal Keane, sounding for a moment as if he were reporting on the voyage of a cruise ship.

The cortege left Buckingham Palace and headed east, straight towards Alastair Bruce for Sky. 'The Mall is waiting to embrace the late Queen as she comes down through this canopy of trees for the last time,' he said.

He was also thinking of the family members marching behind the coffin.

'The thoughts of the nation are with the King. And his siblings. And his two sons,' he added.

He was not alone in his concerns. Earlier, ITV's very own Ship wondered about the mental and physical preparations for the grieving royals. 'How do we guess what is going through their minds at the moment?' he said, sympathising with a 'family about to say goodbye to their mother and grandmother and hand her over to the people'.

How did they cope? In the studio, ITV had Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton to provide some answers. As a former private secretary to the then Cambridges and also to Prince Harry, surely he would know? Of course he did. 'The duty thing is central to their being,' he explained crisply. 'That will see them through it.'

To be fair, it hasn't always seemed entirely central to the Duke of Sussex's being.

Still, it was lovely to see Harry back in the bosom of his family, even on this saddest of days. Yet as he marched onwards, his expression inscrutable, I itched to get out the nail scissors and give his tufty mess of a beard a neat trim. What would his grandfather have said!

Around him, King Charles seemed shattered while the new Prince of Wales never looked more dashing. Anne, Andrew and Edward were just getting on with it, a study in stoic.

Sometimes the cameras roved into the crowds, because Tom Bradby and Julie Etchingham on ITV wanted to know what the ordinary people were doing. Well let's see. Someone was putting on ChapStick. Most were poring over their phones. A jewellery designer ordered the cameraman to 'zoom in' on her earrings.

'I have come all the way from Kensington. I am a royalist through and through. We all love the Queen,' she cried.

Tom Bradby looked horrified. 'It doesn't matter where you come from, many people have made the journey today,' he said, typically petrified of anything that smacked of elitism, excluding himself.

As the cortege swung into Horse Guards Parade people clapped — why? 'Appreciation of the Queen's life,' said Fergal Keane, which was good to know. Yet it was to the enormous credit of all these broadcasters and commentators that when it mattered most yesterday, they mainly fell silent.

During an incredible procession such as this, carrying the emotional freight of a nation along with the late Queen herself, amid the magnificent pomp only Britain can produce, words simply were superfluous. The guns firing in the Royal Parks, the muffled drums, the regimented clip of horses' hooves, the soldiers' boots ringing out to the rhythm of the funereal music — all of it spoke so eloquently for itself.

And if you had to break the silence, surely you had to have a good reason for doing so? Not always the case.

'The steady beat of the drums, the metronome of grief,' chirped Fergal Keane, sounding a bit pleased with himself as the cortege pulled into Parliament Square. 'Passing the statue of Winston Churchill,' he added, 'who had a particularly close bond with the Queen.'

From leaving the Palace, to the guards taking their place on the catafalque, to Queen Consort Camilla casting a concerned, wifely look at Charles as they headed back to their car, the whole event had taken only one hour, yet so much had happened.

WHAT a superb assembly, what a magnificent creation it all was. No theatre production could ever emulate such an occasion, nor do it justice. No Hollywood movie could ever dream this big, while few actors could deal with the extraordinary pressure of such extreme public exposure, knowing that there would be no second take if things went wrong.

I mention this because in the past, the Duchess of Sussex has been understandably confused by the difference between celebrity and monarchy. After being involved in such an occasion, complete with an elegant curtsey to a Queen she barely knew, surely now she can be in no doubt about the distinction?

'A very moving afternoon, dignified and solemn, some uplifting moments, too,' said Huw Edwards for the BBC. He was right. Though it would have been a bit more dignified if Harry and Meghan had managed to resist the urge to hold hands in front of the Queen as she lay in state in Westminster Hall. Still, everyone did their best. Meanwhile, the Royal Family and the nation are bound together in this uneasy time familiar to the bereaved everywhere; caught between the death and the funeral, the goodbye and the burial.

Yet the respect and the love pouring out for the Queen over these past days, both on the airways and in the streets, says something about who we are and what is important to us in the sweep of history.

Dust to dust, monarch to monarch. Onwards we go to the real last journey and the final toll of the bell on Monday.

Picture: GREGORIO BORGIA / REUTERS

Majestic ceremony: Pallbearers from the Grenadier Guards lift the Queen's

coffin on to a catafalque — a raised platform — in Westminster Hall as sunshine streams through the stained glass window of St Stephen's Porch

Their eyes were red-rimmed, but body language spoke volumes

Three Queens: Elizabeth, Queen Mary and the Queen Mother mourn King George VI

Women in black: The Queen Consort, Kate, Sophie and

by REBECCA ENGLISH

ROYAL EDITOR IN WESTMINSTER HALL

THE look on the Countess of Wessex's face – her eyes red-rimmed, biting her bottom lip to stop it trembling – said it all.

At the sound of a clipped 'left turn' from outside, Sophie glanced nervously through the open door as if she couldn't quite believe this was the beginning of the end.

The sight of four royal women waiting for Her Majesty's coffin at the entrance to historic Westminster Hall sparked memories of 'the three Queens' – Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen Mother and Queen Mary – all mourning King George VI in the same hall in 1952. Yesterday each was consumed by her own thoughts. Our new Queen Consort, 75, wearing a favourite glittering diamond stick insect brooch, was clearly struggling to hold back her tears, staring stonily ahead with her arms ramrod straight at her sides as she fought to keep her composure.

Next to her was the Princess of

Picture: TIM ROOKE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Meghan side by side in Westminster Hall yesterday. The sight of the four royal mourners evoked memories of George VI's 1952 funeral, left

Wales, touchingly sporting the Diamond and Pearl Leaf brooch that had belonged to the Queen, the strain of the past few days etched on her face. Occasionally she leant over and spoke to Sophie, 57, as they waited, but otherwise Kate gazed studiously into the distance, hands clasped, as if to prepare herself for the ordeal ahead.

Fascinatingly, while the three working royals bunched together, there had been a notable gap between Sophie and Meghan.

And the body language of the women spoke volumes to all those present, including myself – one of only ten journalists permitted to view the moment the Royal Family handed their beloved matriarch over to the nation for her people to say their goodbyes. In fact the Duchess of Sussex, 41, looked decidedly self-conscious from my vantage point, just above her in the 900-year-old building, the oldest on the Parliamentary Estate.

Shoulders back, clutching her programme and bag, she was the most stylish and striking of them all. She wore a pearl of pearl earrings given to her by the Queen as a wedding present. But there was something self-consciously awkward about her posture, demonstrating the depth of the rift between herself and the rest of the Royal Family even if you happened upon them without any prior knowledge of the acrimony of the past four years.

Indeed Meghan, 41, who was holding black leather gloves, seemed so lost for something to do that at one point she rested her left hand in her pocket.

Fortunately Sophie, who has something of a reputation as a royal peacemaker and is known to have reached out a hand of friendship to Meghan previously, leaned over after a few minutes to exchange a few words. It gave

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To the soaring notes of Psalm

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Meghan, who had travelled in a car with the countess from Buckingham Palace earlier – while the Queen Consort and Kate, as the two most senior women now in the Royal Family, went ahead together – a reason to move slightly closer to her husband's aunt.

Next to her was a bow-legged Duke of Kent, the Queen's cousin, who at 86 appears so frail it was a marvel he could stand, but whose fortitude in not only doing that, but in full military uniform, tore at your heart. Next to him was his brother, Prince Michael of Kent, 80, another ex-Sandhurst gradate.

Yesterday's 20-minute service was so small and so intimate that it felt at times as if you were intruding into a private moment of grief. The television cameras were hidden away behind sympathetically decorated glass booths.

Earlier a group of MPs and peers, as well as High Commissioners of the Realms, took their places to the rear, mere specks in the cavernous, vaulted building. Then seven of the Queen's ladies-in-waiting took up their positions close to the entrance. Some of them are in their 80s and have been by her side for more than 60 years.

Shortly afterwards a long line of the Queen's closest relatives filed in – the Gloucesters, the Kents, the Ogilvys, the Chattos and Snowdons. Each and every one of them – more than 30 in all – loved, and were loved by, our Queen.

The last to arrive as part of the group were those of the Queen's grandchildren who were not taking part in the procession or arriving by official car: Princess Eugenie and Princess Beatrice, accompanied by their husbands; Zara Tindall and her husband Mike; and the Queen's youngest grandchilden, Prince Edward's children Lady Louise, 18, and James, Viscount Severn, 14.

It was a shock to see how tiny the coffin was

The choir of His Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, heralded the arrival of the Queen's coffin in Westminster Hall.

To the soaring notes of Psalm 139, her coffin adorned with the Royal Standard and the Imperial State Crown with a wreath of white roses, dahlias and pine from gardens at Balmoral as well as pittosporum, lavender and rosemary from the gardens at Windsor she loved to walk in, was borne in at just after 3pm.

I had been warned by royal staff that the coffin was 'tiny', but it still took your breath away to see it in person given the size of the Queen's reach and global stature.

It made its way into the centre of the hall, placed on a catafalque which had been dressed in royal purple and gold, with a towering candle at each corner.

The Queen Consort, Kate, Sophie and Meghan all curtseyed as the coffin was carried past – Camilla unable to take her eyes off it, with the Countess of Wessex appearing utterly bereft – before joining their husbands at the door for a procession up the centre of the hall.

Once in position the family stood and looked towards the coffin for the duration of the service, which was led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, supported by the Dean of Westminster, and perfectly brought together two of the things most important to the Queen – her Christian faith and her family.

When the service ended, female members of the family curtseyed at the coffin, while the men bowed their heads – Meghan sweeping low on the floor. Among the first group of senior royals to exit, she and Harry were alone in holding hands. But they were later followed by Zara and Mike Tindall and others who also showed gestures of affection. And I saw the King briefly raise his eyes heavenwards and give a deep sigh, as if to steel himself for the difficult days ahead.

The family was followed by a small group of loyal servants and courtiers. Intriguingly, there was no sign of her right-hand woman, her dresser Angela Kelly, who was with her at Balmoral to the end.

In a speech to mark her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 in Westminster Hall, the Queen said of the setting: 'We are reminded here of our past, of the continuity of our national story and the virtues of resilience, ingenuity and tolerance which created it. I have been privileged to witness some of that history and, with the support of my family, rededicate myself to the service of our great country and its people now and in the years to come.'

I saw the King raise his eyes heavenwards

How fitting, then, that Westminster Hall is now the central focus of the nation's dedication to arguably its greatest head of state.

Support: The Sussexes were initially alone in holding hands

Overcome with emotion: Prince Harry wipes his eyes

Kate's poignant brooch tribute

THE Princess of Wales paid tribute to the Queen at yesterday's service by wearing her diamond and pearl leaf brooch (circled).

The Queen wore the jewellery, featuring three large pearls in the centre of a pave-decorated leaf, in 1999 on a tour of South Korea, left. Kate has worn it before, in 2017 for a World War One commemoration in Ypres, Belgium.

139, the Queen was borne in

‘One by one Camilla, Kate, Sophie and Meghan curtseyed as the coffin was carried past’

Show of respect: As William and Kate depart, Harry bows his head and Meghan curtseys before the Queen’s coffin

The Mother of Parliaments awaits its Queen

Picture: TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS

The embrace of history: Ancient Westminster Hall awaits the arrival of Queen Elizabeth's coffin yesterday. From the first parliaments in the

13th century to the trial of Charles I, the Norman hall has stood silent witness to great events in our island story. Now it does so again

A tungsten determination to get it right for their Sovereign

HOW I SEE IT

by ROBERT HARDMAN

BENEATH the balcony upon which she greeted us at all the happiest moments of her long life, she set out on this saddest of days.

Elizabeth II could always make an entrance like no one else on Earth. Yesterday, she was making the most glorious of exits through the gates of Buckingham Palace for the last time.

Escorted by her children, her closest staff and the regiment she had first commanded on her 16th birthday, she was on her way to receive the love and affection of her people.

She did so in a procession that came as close to perfect as any in her lifetime. Such was the tungsten determination of all involved to get this absolutely right for their great late Sovereign.

It was by no means the biggest parade she had known. Indeed, by the standards of Elizabeth II, it was rather modest in size, just 320 members of her Armed Forces. On her last appearance at the Palace – at the end of her Platinum Jubilee Pageant – there were 1,700 of them.

There was hardly a horse to be seen; all her Household Cavalry were marching on foot – for good reason. The only horses were those of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery pulling the gun carriage upon which her coffin sat in properly imperial splendour. For on top, on a cushion of imperial velvet, rested the Imperial State Crown, the ultimate symbol of her authority.

'A special bond that never faded'

This was the same carriage which carried her mother to her lying-in-state 20 years ago and her father to his half a century before that.

Alongside her marched the Grenadier Guards. Her beloved father had made her their colonel on her 16th birthday, the first in a lifetime of more than 50 military appointments. Yet this was a special bond that never faded. Behind her came the King, dressed in his resplendent marshal of the RAF uniform, and his siblings.

By tradition, royal ladies do not march behind royal coffins but the Princess Royal was not going to abide by that any more than she did in 2002 when the Queen Mother made this same journey.

She and the Earl of Wessex were in uniform, as working members of the family. The Duke of York, once again, was not.

The second row brought the new Prince of Wales (in RAF dress) and the Duke of Sussex (in morning coat) marching next to one another – with the Queen's eldest grandson, Peter Phillips, on the left.

Behind them, alongside the Princess's husband, Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, and the Duke of Gloucester, was the Queen's nephew, the Earl of Snowdon. He was marching on behalf of Princess Margaret, the younger sister for whom the Queen's love and indulgence was lifelong and total.

A final journey which first began on the lanes of Aberdeenshire on Sunday morning now set off up the grandest thoroughfare in the land.

The Mall looked more than magnificent in the sunshine, every yard of it lined with so many people that the police had decided to seal off the approaches with two hours still to go. Late-comers were ordered to Hyde Park to watch proceedings on giant video screens. A muffled drum beat the pace laid down with time-honoured military precision – 75 paces per minute. Big Ben sounded each of those minutes in tandem with the guns of the King's Troop. The synchronicity was not just faultless. It also added to the emotional charge of this electric moment. Music from the bands of the Scots Guards and Grenadier Guards added to the gravity. Beethoven's mournful funeral marches, played at Prince Philip's funeral in April last year, brought home the deep sense of loss. Ahead of the coffin marched the late monarch's closest officials.

Here was her senior adviser, her Private Secretary, Sir Edward Young, and also Vice Admiral Sir Tony Johnstone-Burt, Master of the Household. The latter had organised the 'HMS Bubble' system of staff rotation which got the Queen through the pandemic in such good spirits. Here, too, were her two pages, including 'Tall Paul' Whybrew, the trusted confidant who appeared with her in that immortal cameo with James Bond to open the 2012 Olympics.

Marching parallel to the Grenadier Guards were the 'Pall

Turn to next page

Picture: UK MOD

Splendid synchronicity: Some 320 members of Armed Forces personnel escorted The Queen's coffin

Picture: VICTORIA JONES / PA

The most glorious of exits: The sombre, ceremonial procession begins yesterday from Buckingham Palace towards Westminster Hall

Military family: King Charles with the Princess Royal, the Duke of York, the Prince of Wales, the Earl of Wessex and the Duke of Sussex. The coffin's escort marched to a muffled drum at 75 paces a minute

From page 20

-Bearers', a dozen of the Queen's former equerries. An equerry would be a rising star of one of the Services who would take three years away from his unit to serve as a multi-purpose right-hand-man at the Palace, tasked with everything from ushering prime ministers to organising walkabouts to playing charades at Christmas. It was a posting like no other and they all loved it.

Others had different connections. Captain Tom Muir, for example, who was leading the detachment of Life Guards at the very front of the parade, is the grandson of Lady Rosemary Spencer-Churchill, one of the Queen's Maids of Honour at her Coronation in 1953. Thus a family which played a part at the very start of her record-breaking reign was now taking part at the very end. Her Majesty loved those sorts of personal connections.

There were so many moments that had us swallowing hard, blinking back a non-existent speck of dust in the eye. One was the moment the coffin passed the smiling, waving statue of the Queen Mother off the Mall, the one the Queen unveiled herself in 2009. Above it stands George VI, the father by whose example she swore to reign in her own tearful Accession Council 70 years ago. A profoundly touching moment.

Another was the sight of the coffin processing beneath the arch of Horse Guards. It was one of the defining images of the funeral processions of both Diana and the Queen Mother. How haunting this moment must have felt for Princes William and Harry as they marched that *Via Dolorosa* for a third time.

'A non-existent speck of dust in the eye'

It was a fourth time for the King who also did the same for his beloved uncle, Lord Mountbatten back in 1979. On Whitehall, the cortege was greeted by the Women At War Memorial. Those women were always extremely proud to boast the Queen among their number.

Then came the Cenotaph, the holiest of holies where the Queen had marked Remembrance Sunday more than anyone at all.

By now, the solemnity of the earlier part of the procession had cracked. People started clapping.

In New Palace Yard, Westminster, sawdust and sand ensured that the gun carriage could come to a perfect halt on the cobbles.

The Queen could now be delivered in to the hands of the state. Another phase of this great valedictory journey was over.

Back at Buckingham Palace, it seemed strange, if not incredible, that the little girl who led her Girl Guides troop in its garden; who celebrated her wedding here; who gave birth to a King in its private quarters and entertained Churchill, de Gaulle, Mandela and Obama in its grandest apartments has finally gone for good.

Magnificent in the sunshine: Union flags line The Mall

Picture: BRUCE ADAMS

The strain shows: The King in uniform as a Marshal of the Royal Air Force

as Her Majesty made her poignant journey yesterday to Westminster Hall

Police may reswear their oaths

SCOTLAND Yard's new Commissioner is consulting officers over a proposal to make every constable swear allegiance to King Charles III.

By law, all serving police officers must take the oath swearing to serve the monarch with 'fairness, integrity, diligence and impartiality'.

There is no requirement for existing officers, who swore allegiance to the Queen, to retake the oath as it passes to the heir in the event of death.

But Sir Mark Rowley has launched an internal survey to decide whether his 33,843 officers should reswear their oath to the King.

The Commissioner told rank-and-file officers he had found it 'very powerful' when he was sworn back into office as he took the helm at the country's biggest police force on Monday.

He asked for feedback on the proposal during a staff Q&A a day later.

Police must swear their oath in front of a magistrate. They either attend court for a ceremony or a magistrate may travel to police premises.

But the need for the symbolic gesture will be questioned by some amid a courts backlog of 60,000 cases.

■ A string of senior ministers were sworn in by the King on Tuesday at the first gathering of the Privy Council since the death of his mother. They included Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng and Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

by RICHARD KAY

EDITOR AT LARGE

DIANA'S FUNERAL

United in grief: Prince Philip, William, Earl Spencer, Harry and Prince Charles on September 6, 1997

Will Harry seize the opportunity for reconciliation his brother and father have given?

JUST as it had 25 years and eight days ago, the September sun shone down on William and Harry as they walked side by side behind their grandmother's coffin. But everything else was different.

A quarter of a century before they were brothers united in grief at the sudden death of their mother and the fraternal bonds of shared loss seemed unbreakable.

Yesterday only their mutual sorrow at the passing of the Queen remained. Rarely has the relationship between princes once so close looked so strained, nor the gulf between them so wide.

There was no human barrier to separate them as there had been last year at the farewell for Prince Philip when the burly figure of their cousin, Princess Anne's son Peter Phillips, walked between them.

At their mother's funeral they were just boys who could barely lift their gaze from the ground. Yesterday, they stared rigidly ahead, Harry hatless in his mourning clothes, William's eyes hooded by the peaked cap of his RAF No 1 uniform.

Both carried themselves with dignity and respect, impervious to those watching on who hoped for some sign small sign of reconciliation, some exchange of brotherly love, a flicker of forgiveness even.

There was none.

Of course, the solemnity of the occasion could make such a gesture misplaced.

Harry must see how much the King needs him

Twenty-five years ago, there was a moment when Princess Diana's cortege disappeared briefly beneath Horse Guards Arch before re-appearing on Whitehall.

Then there was a reassuring pat for William from his grandfather. This time there was no such release from the formality of it all and only Harry and William's footfalls remained in lockstep.

Yet if there was an opportunity for this most tragic of rifts to be healed, this was surely it.

Four days earlier, as Harry and Meghan joined William and Kate to view the flowers and greet well-wishers at Windsor Castle, there was no disguising the coolness that now exists between brothers on whom the long-term future of the Royal Family once depended.

Where once they were a natural and spontaneous foursome, now they were awkward and uncertain. But at least they were together.

The question was, could Harry accept the olive branch he was being offered?

When Prince Philip died, Harry was a late arrival landing in Britain after a long flight from California — he found himself playing catch-up and missing out on the nation's mood of loss and sadness. Attempts at reconciling with his brother failed and he was soon heading home to Meghan, then pregnant with daughter Lilibet, and son Archie.

This time there was no need for an urgent flight across the Atlantic — he was already here when the Queen died last Thursday.

It has meant he has been witness to the extraordinary outpouring of national grief and mourning that has gripped the country from the very beginning.

If ever he wished to re-evaluate the decisions he has taken, then there was no better place to start than on the Mall yesterday as he stood in silent reflection behind his father, the King.

How easy it would have been to confine the Prince and his wife to some minor role, tucked away as they were during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations as a mere support act. On that occasion the reality of their role as minor royals alongside the Queen's cousins in the less prominent pews at St Paul's Cathedral could not have been clearer.

And if the same had happened this week, wouldn't they only have had themselves to blame? Their peevish complaints from their Montecito mansion, so often insensitive, have continued unabated. While looming over everything remains the spectre of Harry's score-settling memoir.

Yet King Charles — and indeed William — have shown magnanimity. Rather than being excluded, Harry has been brought into the centre of things. His role yesterday was hardly obscure. Indeed he was afforded every courtesy of his position as the King's son. He was in his rightful place alongside his brother and behind his father.

In Westminster Hall, he and the Duchess of Sussex lined up exactly as they should have in the order of succession behind William and Kate to pay their respects to the Queen's coffin.

As for Meghan, she too was shown the respect that merits a monarch's daughter-in-law.

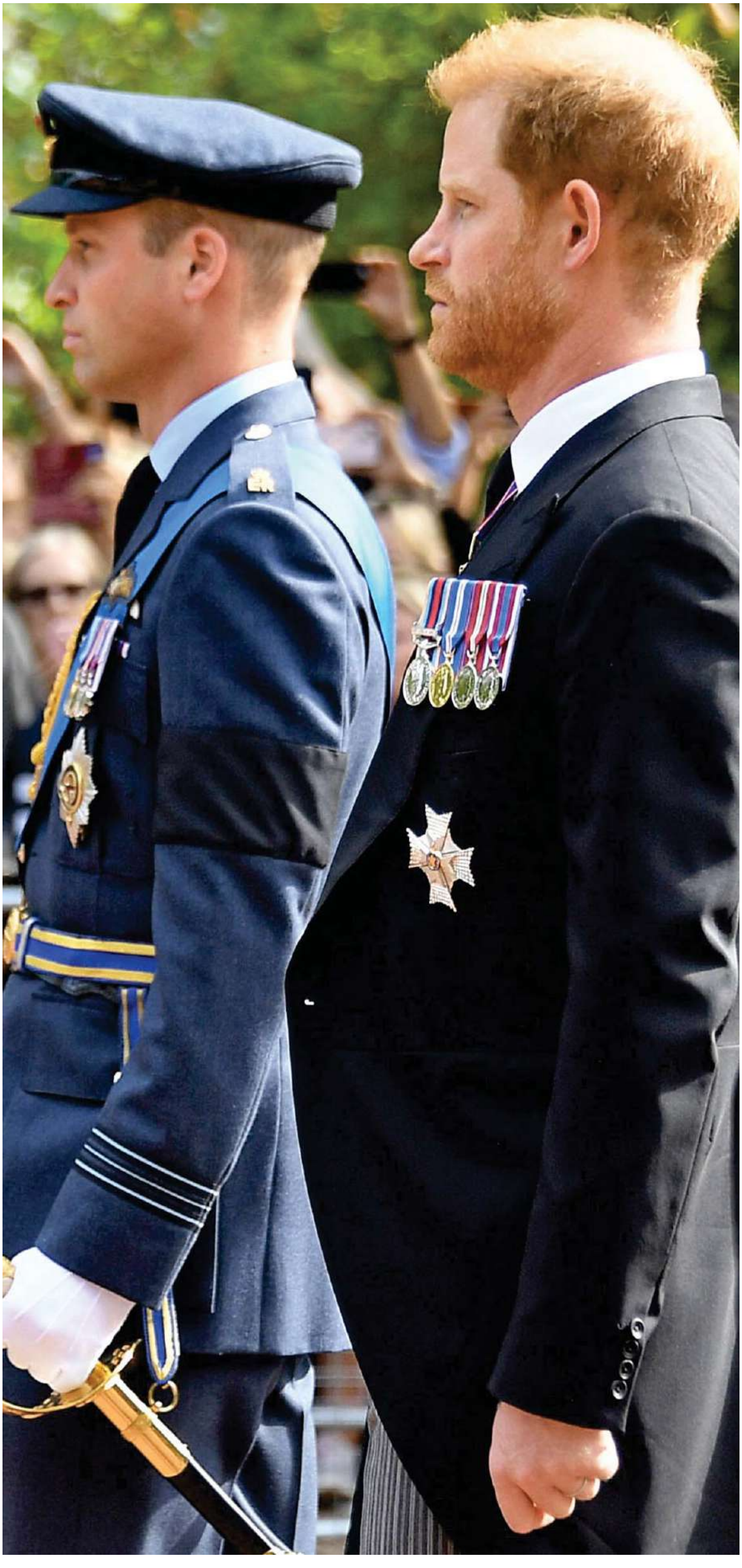
While Harry walked with his brother, his wife travelled in a royal limousine with his aunt Sophie, Countess of Wessex. She was second in the convoy of royal cars behind the Queen Consort and Kate, the new Princess of Wales.

'He and Meghan have said an awful lot, much of it deeply hurtful'

In the fine-tuned world of monarchy these are more than just symbolic gestures. Here, Harry was being shown his rightful place in the House of Windsor, should he ever wish to return and pick up the threads of his royal life.

What is clear is that he is not — at least not yet — being treated as the royals once treated another former much-loved figure who chose exile over duty. King Edward VIII and his wife Wallis — who was always denied an HRH title — was never truly welcomed in Britain after the abdication.

Does Harry realise that? Can he even see the distinction?



Picture: JAMIE WISEMAN

Standing together: The Prince of Wales and Duke of Sussex yesterday and (above) as boys at Diana's funeral

Surveying the now thinning ranks of frontline royals, even he must realise how much his father, a pensioner King, and his brother need him.

The question is, will Harry seize the opportunity?

There is one other factor, however. In America, where the Sussexes' celebrity has definitely been waning, how significant will be Harry and Meghan's central role this week? How much will it have breathed fresh life into their flagging brand?

The answer, of course, is that the brand will have been transformed by their closeness to an epic event that has gripped the world. They have reafirmed their status as outsiders with a ringside seat at great historical occasions.

Can Harry and Meghan rejoin The Firm?

For months, rumours have trickled out from California that Harry is homesick, that he misses his friends, his old Army buddies and even the English countryside. 'What does he do all day,' is frequently asked by some of his oldest friends?

It is only fair to say that in Meghan and their children, he has a settled and extremely happy domestic life.

And it would be a mistake to ignore the fact that he is here because of his love and affection for the Queen and he has been sincerely sorrowful.

His moving statement about her 'unwavering grace and dignity' was testament to that.

But opportunity for members of the Royal Family rarely knocks more than once. Between them, his father and brother have offered him a way back and he has had more than a glimpse of the life he left behind.

There is a pragmatism here on Charles's and William's part: they need him. Slimming down the Royal Family is all very well, but in just two years it has lost much of its firepower: the disgraced Andrew, the absent Harry and Meghan, and now the Queen.

Soon those royal cousins, the Gloucesters and Kents, who did much of the unsung heavy lifting are likely to retire. There will be a need for more working royals, not fewer.

For Harry any step towards a royal re-engagement would mean significant compromise. Can he cancel the book, for example, and can he stop his wife's endless critical and selfish interventions about how shabbily they were treated by the royals?

There would need to be compromise on William's side, too — and he will not find it easy to forgive. As one royal friend told me: 'You can apologise but you can't unsay things you have said and Harry and Meghan have said an awful lot, much of it deeply hurtful.'

Just suppose some form of reconciliation came to pass, and Harry was prepared to resume his life here, where would that leave Meghan?

Could they find a new royal model that allows Harry to rejoin 'The Firm' and his wife to have a semi-detached role?

It could be done. A role of this sort developed over time for Princess Diana, who continued to support Charles at national events throughout their separation but followed her own path in terms of duties.

The difference of course is that Diana did not commercialise her life as Meghan and Harry have done.

And it is for this reason, tragically, that for all the positive signs the couple's presence have triggered, not even the most optimistic of courtiers truly believe there is any way back for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

Of course, they will be back for Charles's coronation, but after that?

In the years ahead, failing to recognise the possibilities presented to them this week may turn out to be the couple's biggest error yet.

They watched in a strange solemn silence ... expressions frozen in awe

by SAM GREENHILL

TENS of thousands of people were there – along with an eerie near-silence.

In the minutes before the poignant procession marched past, practically nobody dared to move or say a word.

Until then, there had been an excited chatter among members of the crowd who had bagged their spots early at the barriers to witness the historic moment the Queen left Buckingham Palace for the final time.

But then suddenly everything was stilled – as the faint drumbeat of the Grenadier Guards band drifted over St James's Park.

For the thousands waiting patiently on Horse Guards Road, just around the corner from The Mall, the procession could be heard long before it could be seen.

And as the gentle thump-thump of the military drummer grew louder, mourners began getting ready. Immediately, a hush descended. A man at the front in his 40s, wearing a large array of military medals on his blazer, adopted a rigid pose, eyes-front.

Most mourners just watched – mesmerised

People waiting patiently on camping stools quickly stood up. Others who had been on their feet for hours, and had no space to do anything, seemed to want to prepare themselves in some way, brushing down their clothes, shifting their positions and straightening their backs.

Unfortunately an elderly woman – having probably waited for hours – fainted only minutes before the spectacle arrived.

At the first sign that the long wait was over, a grinning boy in sunglasses was hoisted on to his father's shoulders and had by far the best view, over everyone's heads. Except that it was still a good ten minutes before anything arrived – and, judging by the waning enthusiasm of his father's expression, the lad was quite heavy. And of course, across the crowd a forest of hands holding mobile phone cameras began sprouting.

Yet for minute after minute, despite thousands of people standing there, the area was becalmed by the strange, solemn silence.

And then a radio commentator in a glass box on stilts, who from his vantage point could see down The Mall, signalled to the crowd on Horse Guards Road that the cortege was on its way. He was rewarded with a grateful cheer.

Being mainly British, many of the wellwishers were wearing raincoats, even though it had turned into a bright, balmy day.

But underneath, a large proportion had also chosen something black to wear, and their expressions matched as the procession drew near.

The gun carriage of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery bearing the Queen trundled past a sea of bleak faces. Some bowed their heads in her honour and one or two threw stems of roses. But most just watched mesmerised, their expressions frozen in awe.

Before their eyes, the coffin draped in the Royal Standard passed by, followed immediately by the King, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex, and then the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex, plus a host of less senior royals. It was a huge amount to take in within a few seconds.

A police officer stood guard every few yards of the route – and yet few of them saw the incredible spectacle passing just inches away. It was their duty to watch the crowds, standing in the road but facing away from the cortege. There were gasps at the sight of the Imperial State Crown, worn by the Queen on the way back to Buckingham Palace after her Coronation, as it glittered in the sunlight atop her coffin.

The procession marched to the pace of a grenadier's muffled drum draped in black beaten at 75 paces per minute, the royals keeping in perfect step with the Guardsmen.

Wellwishers' eyes darted from the coffin to the doleful King to William and Harry, and many were quickly filled with tears.

And then, as the end of the procession finally rounded the bend to Horse Guards Parade, everyone took a deep breath. Children, parents, grandparents, tourists, military veterans and others from all walks of life broke into a spontaneous round of muted applause.

For some, the emotion was just too much and the tears began to flow. Several red-eyed mourners were consoled with an arm around them or just a light touch on the shoulder from whoever was standing nearby.

Laura Blake, 46, said: 'It was very, very emotional. Everyone went so quiet. You could hear the stillness. It was such an honour to witness that. As soon as we heard the music, the sun came out from behind the clouds. It was magical. It was very emotional. The preci-

Tears: Woman in the crowd weeps

Watching history unfold: Girl is lifted up so she can see

Picture: BEN STANSALL / AFP

Family: King Charles, Prince William and Princess Anne salute the Queen's coffin as Prince Andrew and Prince Harry bow their heads

Sea of phones: Mourners hold their mobiles up to film the solemn procession as it passes by

sion – every little detail – was spectacular. There was a quiet dignity in what they were doing. All the detail and the discipline.

'It makes us so proud to be British. I'm so proud of this country and I'm so proud that we have a Royal Family. Everyone was just mesmerised. We've been chatting to people we've never met before.'

She added: 'The Queen has always united people. She's been that one constant in our lives. She's always had the right words. We didn't know if we would be able to see anything. But, after everything she's done for us, all we could do is try.'

Fabiana Riveros, 32, from Essex said: 'It made me cry and I didn't think it would. This morning the atmosphere in the crowd was really friendly – nobody was pushing to get to the front or arguing.

'It was all very respectful. When the procession came past it was very quiet as people contemplated the impact the Queen has had on the country for the last 70 years.'

Mourners went to extraordinary lengths to soak up yesterday's moment in history.

Some clambered on railings, others attempted to scale trees – until police ordered them down. The Department for International Trade offices overlook Horse Guards Parade and canny civil servants had pre-booked 'meetings' in rooms with the best views. In Hyde Park, giant screens had been set up and the area was packed with those who had not made it to the procession route in time or who simply wanted to enjoy a view of the entire parade. Matthew Danbury, 44, of Bewdley, Worcestershire, said: 'I wanted to come to pay my respects. It's a real moment in our nation's history – the Queen leaving Buckingham Palace for the very last time.

'It has been an extraordinary day and I cannot believe the huge crowds. It has been very moving.'

On The Mall, Elaena Shipp, 24, from north London, said: 'I wanted to see a slice of history and this was a pretty momentous occasion. It is something many of us have never seen – the preparation for a state funeral for a serving monarch.

'I wouldn't have missed it for the world. There were thousands of people waiting but, as soon as the coffin with the Royal Family walking behind it approached, there was a hushed, solemn atmosphere.

'I was expecting it to be louder, with more people shouting from the crowd. It's quite a fitting mood really, I think people are really feeling the gravity of the situation.'

Artist Alan Storer, 75, of Twickenham, south-west London, said: 'It was very moving and in a way quite understated, so much so that I actually missed the Queen's coffin even though it came right past me.

'But I'm glad I came here and soaked up a piece of history. We've become so used to seeing the Queen smiling and waving at crowds that to know she isn't here any more is quite strange.

I felt it important to kind of tune in to the energy of the occasion. It's something to look back on and say "I was there".'

Emotion was too much and tears flowed

Filing along the Thames, 2.5-mile line of devotion

1

2

Expectant: Royal fans wind their way along the Albert Embankment Path on the south side of the river

3

4

Bridge of sighs: The queue makes its way north over Lambeth Bridge near the end of the journey

Waiting game: Crowds at County Hall near the start of the two-and-a-half-mile queue yesterday

5

Nearly there: Groups zigzag around Victoria Tower Gardens – the final stop before they can enter Westminster Hall to pay their respects to the Queen

Westminster view: Mourners opposite the Houses of Parliament are bathed by the evening sun

A 50-hour wait... then a

by JANE FRYER

WHAT a difference a day makes. In Westminster, Tuesday's sad little queue has been transformed.

Not just in size – from the soggy group of 47 waiting to see the Queen lying in state the evening before her coffin was brought to Westminster Hall, to 600-odd by 6.30am the next day and well over 4,000 by 3pm; the line snaking in great swirly loops around the London Eye, and beyond.

But more in cheeriness. Yes, when I arrive mid-morning, there are gritty eyes galore, damp clothes now steaming in the warm and a lot of stiff, tired people who've spent most of the night with their legs crossed. 'I haven't dared drink anything,' says Sharon from Southend. 'I'm probably very dehydrated by now!'

The atmosphere is completely different. Something has happened here on the cold concrete on the south bank of the Thames.

People are chatting to their neighbours, making friends, sharing squashed egg sandwiches and cups of tepid tea.

'There's something uniquely British about queueing. We're good at it. We're professional queuers,' explains Duncan Rasor, 48, a former member of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who served for four months at Balmoral in 1999, now works in insurance and is immaculately laundered and festooned in medals. A dozens yards along, Patrick Hughes, 22, from Kent is in full morning suit with his brother Tom. 'We just thought we should,' says Patrick.

Not everyone is as crisp and rested. Neighbours Kenneth Taylor, 72, and Nathalie Hickson, 51, from Reading, bought a tent along, only to be thwarted by security.

'We started on the grass, but that wasn't allowed, then we moved to the concrete until, finally, they relented,' says Nathalie, still doing her best in a black lace fascinator bobbing in honour of the Queen.

Grandmother Truus Nayman, 85, had a total nightmare. After a night in the elements, she was so cold and wet she went home to Richmond at dawn to change, but on her return, no one would let her back in for ages. Wasn't she daunted at the thought of a night on the streets? 'Oh no! I did it for Winston Churchill, in the winter. But I did decide not to mention it to my five children until afterwards,' she adds.

Andrew Israel, 55, a big bearded chap in a lumberjack shirt who flew in especially from Minnesota, US, adopted a different approach. 'I bought some crisps, an umbrella

Gloomy weather, high spirits: One group (top) came prepared for downpours, while this cheerful chap warmed himself up with beans

Line could stretch 10 miles – and close on Saturday night

By **Jason Groves**
Political Editor

THE queue for people to pay their final respects to the Queen could stretch for ten miles and may be closed as early as Saturday night.

Downing Street yesterday said the planned route of almost seven miles will be extended by installing three miles of airport-style zigzag lines in parks at the beginning and end.

Government sources also warned the queue will be closed to new entrants at some point over the weekend when officials decide no more people will be able to make it in time to Westminster Hall to see the Queen lying in state.

The lying-in-state period will end at 6.30am on Monday.

But, with Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan warning that queue times could hit 30 hours, this could mean the line being closed to new entrants in the early hours of Sunday, or even late on Saturday night.

Ministers privately admit they have no idea how many people will descend on London, but they are braced for vast numbers. Provision has been made for the queue to start in Southwark Park in Bermondsey and end at Victoria Tower Gardens by the House of Lords.

The total distance is 6.9 miles, but an additional three miles of 'queue infrastructure' has been installed in the parks at the beginning and end, taking the total distance to almost ten miles.

Visitors will go through airport-style security before entering Westminster Hall. There will be more than 1,000 volunteers, stewards and police on hand at any one time. The Samaritans will deploy 180 volunteers to provide 'emotional support' to those grieving.

Q&A

How long is the queue?
Last night it was already some 2.5 miles, meaning a wait of 12 hours. Ministers warn people could have to wait 30 hours or more.

Where do I join?
The back of the queue can be found by scanning the QR code here or looking on this Government channel: www.youtube.com/user/dcms

What should I bring?
A poncho or umbrella, a portable phone charger and a book. Don't bring: Folding chairs, large bags, food, drink, flowers, placards, flags – or Paddington Bears.

What about children?
All ages are welcome, but parents have been reminded of the rigours of the queue.

What about toilets and refreshments?
There are 500 portable toilets, and water stations. Food can be bought at snack stops. Local organisations will open for longer to provide comfort breaks and refreshment.

Is there a fast-track?
There is an 'accessible queue' for those with disabilities or anyone struggling to cope.

What are the rules in Westminster Hall?
Mobile phones cannot be used inside. Clothes with 'political or offensive slogans' are banned.

Is there an easier way to see the coffin?
Yes. The BBC is providing a dedicated live stream online, on iPlayer and BBC Parliament.

Track the length of the queue LIVE on The Mail+ SCAN HERE

memory to last for ever

Happy campers: Reading materials helped the time fly, as others pitched tents along the south bank of the Thames

and four very strong fruit ciders, so I was warm and I was happy.'

Meanwhile, there were yet more rumblings about Vanessa, Anne and Grace, the ladies lording it up in spots one, two and three of the queue who, by all accounts, were absent for long stretches in the night. 'They've hardly been there,' mutters someone further back. 'They've just swanned in and out.'

Oh dear. Thank goodness that now the wee dark hours have passed, the mood is increasingly buoyant. Particularly when, at 11am, the much-promised wristbands are finally handed out, guaranteeing entry to the first 2,000 in the queue and, perhaps, rather more pressingly, the chance to dash to the loo without jeopardising their place.

David Carlson – the old boy who had a funny turn yesterday – brandishes his number 12 band. 'I've got my golden ticket!' he beams.

As the morning wears on, some of the hardcore double overnighters change into clothes seemingly magicked out of the air, including Sarah Langley (number 4), who slips into a black dress and cardie, and says: 'We wanted to look our best for the Queen.' By early afternoon – despite a few rogue shouts of 'we're moving!' – the mood is positively carnival. Posh chocolate truffles and custard creams are shared. A team of vicars in hi-vis vests offer emotional support. Staff at St Thomas' hospital loll on the wall above in their pink scrubs, and every time a troop of soldiers or police march past, everyone cheers and claps.

Then come the celebrities. London mayor Sadiq Khan and The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, cause a bit of a stir. But far more exciting is the surprise arrival of TV personality Sharon Osbourne who, teeny and smooth-skinned, performs her own royal walkabout, chatting to queuers flanked by a TV crew. 'How nice was that? Made my day!' exclaims Julie, 53, from Cheltenham to her two pals. 'And didn't she look so young!'

On it goes. A bit like a giant chat-a-thon with children on laps and memories shared.

Joyce Dawson, 54, from Middlesbrough, tells how, despite never having been to London before, she jumped on the midnight coach last night. 'It was a spur of the moment thing!'

And former cabin crew Paul Mason, 67, recalls how, when he flew with the Queen on her 1986 trip to Nepal, she asked for 'vegetables only' and thanked everyone beautifully afterwards.

Finally, soon after 3pm, the 'top 20' are ushered through to the first stage of the long march across Lambeth Bridge towards Westminster Hall.

As they walk, they exchange numbers and promise to stay in touch. But the closer they get, the quieter the mood. And by the time they reach Westminster Hall, silence. Inside lies the Queen's oak coffin, high up on a raised platform and draped in the Royal Standard.

Some bow. Others curtsey. All share a private moment. But in a minute, it's all over and they emerge blinking and pink-eyed into the sunshine.

Many have spent more than 50 hours waiting in the wind and rain for this brief moment. All insist it was worth it.

Additional reporting: Isabelle Stanley and Connor Stringer

Anger as MPs get four extra passes so they can jump queue with chums

By **Martin Beckford** and **Connor Stringer**

MPs can jump the queue to see the Queen's coffin and bring in up to four guests, to the anger of those being forced to wait.

While hundreds of thousands of people are having to stand in line for up to 30 hours along the Thames, MPs and peers are able to walk in to the lying-in-state.

They only have to show their Parliamentary security passes to gain immediate entry to Westminster Hall, where the late monarch's coffin is resting until her state funeral on Monday.

MPs, who got to witness the arrival of the Queen's coffin yesterday, are also entitled to four timed entry tickets, letting friends or family to avoid the wait.

'An abuse of privilege'

Last night their special treatment was condemned by some of the thousands waiting in line for their brief chance to pay their respects.

Julie Newman, 56, said: 'It is an abuse of privilege. I don't mind queuing, because everybody queues. But there is no excuse for queue-jumping, it's not fair.' Dexter Bowls, 20, said: 'For something like this, it is not fair. They're not going to work at this time.'

Another said it was wrong for MPs to be given four free tickets, saying: 'They shouldn't be allowed any.'

One woman said: 'They should be able to queue like everyone else in their own time.'

It can also be revealed that thousands of police officers taking part in the country's biggest-ever security operation will not get a chance to visit the lying-in-state. Officers are not being granted special access to Westminster Hall and have been told not to visit while on duty nearby.

A police source last night told the Daily Mail: 'It's disappointing but not surprising that MPs are able to jump the queue while the thousands of police officers working 12-hour days with cancelled holidays won't get any opportunities to say goodbye.' There was also anger among MPs' staff that they are not being given priority access, unlike their employers and Commons officials.

Parliamentary staff can show their passes to enter and can apply for one guest ticket each.

According to the Spectator, one group of Conservative staffers wrote in a group chat: 'As servants in Her Majesty's Parliament, we were saddened to hear that the opportunity to pay our final respects to our late sovereign has been limited to only particular groups of pass holders.'

Sources said 140 MPs and 140 members of the Lords were invited to witness the arrival of the Queen's cortege at Parliament yesterday before members of the public were allowed in. Many put photos of the order of service on social media afterwards.

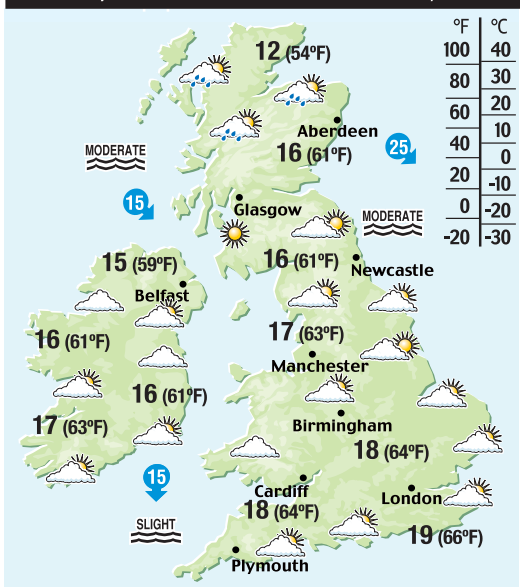
Senior Labour MP Jonathan Reynolds posted his black-edged invitation, writing: 'It was a privilege to represent my constituents today at this remarkable ceremony and moment of British history.

'I hope all those who wish to pay their respects at the lying-in-state are able to do so.'

Conservative MP Laurence Robertson attended with his wife, tweeting: 'Annie and I have been honoured and privileged to pay our last respects to Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, in Westminster Hall today.'

Weather

Go to: **dailymail.co.uk/weather** for UK and world 5 day forecast



Summary: Mainly dry

UK TODAY: Mainly dry with periods of sunshine however variable amounts of cloud will build during the day and there is a threat of a few showers, these will be most frequent across northern Scotland. Max 19c.

Today's weather

	9am	12noon	3pm	6pm	9pm
London	15c	17c	18c	18c	16c
Plymouth	15c	17c	18c	17c	14c
Cardiff	14c	16c	17c	16c	14c
B'ham	14c	15c	17c	16c	13c
M'chester	13c	15c	16c	15c	12c
Newcastle	10c	14c	15c	13c	10c
Glasgow	10c	14c	15c	14c	10c
Aberdeen	10c	12c	12c	11c	10c
Belfast	12c	14c	14c	13c	11c

5 day forecast

	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
London	18c	18c	18c	18c	19c
Plymouth	19c	18c	17c	18c	18c
Cardiff	18c	18c	18c	18c	18c
B'ham	16c	16c	15c	16c	17c
M'chester	15c	15c	15c	15c	16c
Newcastle	13c	15c	13c	14c	16c
Glasgow	15c	15c	16c	16c	16c
Aberdeen	12c	13c	12c	13c	15c
Belfast	14c	14c	15c	16c	17c

Yesterday

24 hours to 6pm	Sun (hrs)	Rain (ins)	Temp (min)	Temp (max)
Aberdeen	1.6	0.00	11	16
Aberporth	0.2	0.00	13	15
Belfast	1.5	0.01	11	16
Birmingham	10.0	0.00	7	19
Bournemouth	5.4	0.31	15	22
Bristol	8.5	0.15	13	21
Cardiff	8.4	0.16	13	20
Durham	4.1	0.00	8	17

24 hours to 6pm	Sun (hrs)	Rain (ins)	Temp (min)	Temp (max)
Edinburgh	5.5	0.00	7	19
Glasgow	10.9	0.00	10	18
Hull	3.9	0.00	6	18
Ipswich	5.3	0.00	12	22
Leeds	4.7	0.00	9	18
Lincoln	9.3	0.00	10	17
London	6.1	0.16	14	22
Manchester	4.2	0.00	8	17
Southampton	5.5	0.54	15	22
St Andrews	7.3	0.00	7	18
Stornoway	1.7	0.01	11	15

Information supplied by Meteogroup

Moon and Sun

MOON rises: 9.13pm, sets: 12.43pm
Sun rises London: 6.35am, sets: 7.15pm
Manchester rises: 6.42am, sets: 7.25pm

HIGH TIDE London Bridge: 5.55pm
Liverpool: 3.00pm

Extremes (24 hrs to 6pm y'day) **Warmest:** Plymouth, Devon, 23c (73f). **Coldest:** Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 2c (36f). **Wettest:** Thorney Island, West Sussex, 0.88ins. **Sunniest:** Glasgow, Glasgow, 10.9hrs.

Europe forecast

	today	c	f	tomorrow	c	f
Amsterdam	fair	18	64	showers	16	61
Brussels	cloudy	18	64	showers	14	57
Frankfurt	fair	20	68	fair	17	63
Geneva	rain	23	73	fair	20	68
Lisbon	fair	25	77	fair	26	79
Madrid	thunder	25	77	sun	27	81
Paris	fair	22	72	cloudy	17	63
Rome	thunder	28	82	thunder	26	79

Around the world yesterday

Noon local time

	weather	c	f
Algiers	Fair	31	88
Amsterdam	Fair	19	66
Athens	Sunny	28	82
Auckland	Fair	15	59
Bahrain	Sunny	41	106
Barcelona	Fair	25	77
Basra	Sunny	45	113
Beijing	Fair	29	84
Beirut	Drizzle	30	86
Belfast	Cloudy	14	57
Belgrade	Sunny	29	84
Berlin	Fair	17	63
Biarritz	Sunny	29	84
Brisbane	Fair	21	70
Brussels	Rain	15	59
Bucharest	Sunny	24	75
Budapest	Cloudy	21	70
Cairo	Fair	30	86
Cape Town	Sunny	26	79
Casablanca	Fair	25	77
Copenhagen	Fair	17	63
Corfu	Sunny	28	82
Dubai	Fair	41	106
Dublin	Cloudy	14	57
Dubrovnik	Sunny	24	75
Faro	Rain	23	73
Florence	Fair	28	82
Geneva	Fair	23	73
Gibraltar	Sunny	25	77
Guernsey	Mist	18	64
Helsinki	Rain	11	52
Hong Kong	Fair	33	91
Innsbruck	Fair	24	75
Istanbul	Sunny	23	73
Jersey	Showers	19	66
Larnaca	Sunny	31	88
Las Palmas	Fair	26	79
Lisbon	Fair	22	72
London	Fair	20	68
Los Angeles	Fair	26	79
Luxor	Sunny	35	95
Madrid	Fair	23	73
Malaga	Fair	28	82
Malta	Sunny	29	84
Melbourne	Fair	16	61
Mexico City	Cloudy	20	68
Miami	Cloudy	31	88
Milan	Cloudy	26	79
Montreal	Rain	20	68
Moscow	Cloudy	12	54
Mumbai	Showers	29	84
Nairobi	Cloudy	20	68
New Delhi	Fair	32	90
New York	Thunder	27	81
Nice	Cloudy	24	75
Oslo	Sunny	18	64
Palma	Sunny	30	86
Paris	Fair	25	77
Perth	Fair	17	63
Prague	Rain	17	63
Rhodes	Sunny	28	82
Riga	Showers	15	59
Rome	Fair	28	82
Singapore	Showers	28	82
Stockholm	Cloudy	14	57
Strasbourg	Cloudy	26	79
Sydney	Fair	17	63
Tangier	Fair	25	77
Tel Aviv	Sunny	30	86
Tenerife	Fair	28	82
Tokyo	Fair	31	88
Toronto	Showers	18	64
Tunis	Sunny	37	99
Vancouver	Sunny	19	66
Venice	Fair	27	81
Vienna	Cloudy	20	68
Warsaw	Fair	19	66
Wellington	Cloudy	9	48

ELIZABETH R 1926-2022

Half the planet will watch on TV

By **Inderdeep Bains**
Deputy Chief Reporter

THE funeral is expected to become the biggest live event in TV history, with billions expected to tune in from around the globe on Monday.

Experts predict 4.1billion will switch on as broadcasters across the world clear schedules to provide live coverage of the state funeral at Westminster Abbey.

Thanks to advances in technology, the global audience figures are expected to eclipse the estimated 2.5billion that watched the service for Princess Diana 25 years ago.

Carolina Beltramo, TV analyst at WatchTVAbroad.com, said: 'Generations of people across the globe won't have been alive the last time pomp and pageantry were seen on this scale.

'While it's a sad occasion, they can be forgiven for being enthralled by a spectacle that echoes throughout history.

'No fewer than 4.1billion people are expected to tune in – half the people on planet Earth.'

She said most of us now 'carry TVs around in our pockets', referring to mobile phones.

This meant numbers were likely to exceed one of the biggest ever TV events – the opening ceremony of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics when 3.6billion watched Muhammad Ali light the Olympic torch, she added.

Millions across the UK and Commonwealth realms have been given a holiday on Monday so they can watch as the monarch is finally laid to rest ten days after her death.

In the UK, large screens are expected to be erected in towns and cities across the country, while cinemas will open on Monday to show the funeral of Britain's longest-reigning monarch for free.

'Emergency services?! We've lost our television remote!'

Now MPs join demands for cortege route to be longer

It's not too late to change rigid plans and let millions more of us bid the Queen farewell ROBERT HARDMAN

From yesterday's Daily Mail

By **Martin Beckford**
Policy Editor

CALLS are growing for the Queen's funeral route to be lengthened so that many more people can pay their final respects.

Senior MPs yesterday joined the clamour for the late monarch's final journey from Westminster Abbey on Monday to be extended.

There are fears that tens of thousands of people will be left disappointed by the current arrangements because they will not all be able join the lengthy queue to see the lying-in-state in Parliament this week or watch the walking procession to Hyde Park Corner after the service.

One option – first raised by the Daily Mail's Robert Hardman yesterday – would be to extend the last section of the journey to the Queen's final resting place in St George's Chapel, Windsor.

At the moment the coffin is due to travel directly down the final stretch of the Long Walk to the castle, but it could take in the whole three-mile path, allowing potentially hundreds of thousands of extra mourners to line the route.

A last-minute change in the plan in response to the overwhelming public demand would echo the surprise decision to let more people see Princess Diana's funeral cortege in 1997, which saw the starting point moved from St James's Palace to Kensington Palace at the last minute, adding an extra mile and allowing tens of thousands more to pay tribute.

Former Cabinet minister David Jones said last night: 'It looks very much as if not everybody who wants to go to the lying in state will be able to do so because there's going to be overwhelming interest in it. We're talking about waits of over 30 hours.

'What's very clear from the last few days is the enormous affection that people have for The Queen and the fact that so many people are going to be missing her now that she's gone. So I think that anything that gives as many people as possible the opportunity to pay their respects is a good idea. I certainly think it's a good idea and I hope that they will consider it.'

Another senior Conservative agreed: 'I do have sympathy with the argument that the route should be extended.

'Nobody should be turned away'

'There are many people who wish to see the late Queen and this might relieve the pressure on the queues building up to see Her Majesty in Westminster Hall.' And former London Assembly member Peter Whittle said: 'The answer is simple: The funeral route should be extended.

'At the Jubilee, it was frustrating how officials "closed" the route, saying it was full.

'This is typical modern overcautiousness and risk aversion. Whether on the route or at lying in state, nobody should be turned away.'

However, Downing Street has played down hopes of a late change of plan.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said: 'On the procession route, that is obviously agreed with the Palace in advance so there is no plan to change that. There are a number of procession routes that people can use, so we want as many people as possible to have sight of that procession.'

And a former Metropolitan Police royal protection officer warned it would be risky for the meticulously planned Operation London Bridge, the long-held arrangements for the Queen's death, to be altered at short notice.

Ken Wharfe, who was a bodyguard for Princess Diana, told the Daily Mail: 'The Queen herself has been involved for decades in this – it will have been written in stone.

'And the police would not wish to change it at short notice, especially as they are already stretched. When you try to change things to appease the public, that's when the risk increases.'

Travel chaos as millions descend on London

By **David Churchill**
Transport Editor

MOURNERS should brace themselves for days of travel chaos as London faces its 'biggest challenge in history', the capital's transport chief warned yesterday.

Andy Byford said that the management of the 'millions' expected to descend on the city ahead of the funeral would be dealt with 'minute by minute' from a command centre.

It is understood, however, that officials are more concerned about throngs leaving simultaneously after the funeral than the build-up to it when mourners should arrive in manageable trickles. Between today and Monday rail operators will put on about 1,000 extra trains, with some running services throughout the night to help visitors get home.

Avanti West Coast, which connects London with Birmingham and Manchester is unable to lay on extra trains this weekend amid a long-running industrial dispute. Travellers should also brace themselves for chaos around London Underground stations closest to Westminster, where the funeral is taking place, and royal landmarks.

To help drivers, National Highways has paused the planned closures of motorways serving London in an effort to reduce disruption.

Mr Byford said: 'This is huge. This is the biggest event and challenge that TfL has faced in its history and we must rise to that challenge.'

We wanted minimum disruption, say royals

By **Andy Jehring** and **Andy Dolan**

KING Charles and the Royal Family want there to be 'minimum disruption' for the public on the day of the Queen's funeral, it is understood.

Decisions to close food banks, postpone funerals and cancel hospital appointments are causing problems across the country.

A royal source told the Daily Mail: 'While we appreciate people wanting to commemorate the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth appropriately and respectfully, it is up to individual organisations to decide how they do that, balancing it with the need to cause minimum disruption to others.

'There have been no blanket instructions from the Royal Household for cancellations of events, services or transport links.'

Bosses have claimed they are doing so out of respect for the late Queen, but

'A huge slap in the face to everyone'

sources said there have been no blanket orders from the Royal Household for events, services or transport to close.

Official guidance leaves it up to businesses whether they stay open on Monday, which is a bank holiday. There is no requirement for shops, restaurants, entertainment venues or holiday resorts to shut their doors, but many are doing so.

One food bank in Wimbledon, south west London, was forced into a U-turn after its decision to close sparked a backlash.

The Trussell Trust, which runs a nationwide network of food banks, was forced to defend plans by some of its facilities to close, including sites in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.

Southwark food bank in London, South Sefton food bank in Bootle, Liverpool, and all food banks in Bournemouth are also among those to have announced they will be closed on Monday.

One Twitter user said facilities which decided to close had delivered 'a huge slap in the face to everyone who relies on your food bank to feed themselves right'.

But Emma Revie, Chief Executive of the Trussell Trust, said in a statement: 'Food banks in our network run sessions on different days and at different times.

'Food banks are best placed to make the right decision for their communities and will ensure everyone who needs support can access it as they do with every bank holiday. Meanwhile the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) clarified that there is no blanket postponing of funerals after some undertakers cancelled plans.

The NAFD, which represents more than 4,100 funeral parlours, believes the 'vast majority of family wishes are being honoured', based on conversations with members.

It said: 'Although work is still ongoing, some funerals will go ahead, others are moving to a different date – led by the wishes of the bereaved families involved.

'Most funeral services booked for September 19 will have been arranged many weeks ago, so funeral directors and cemeteries/crematoria are working with families to find the best approach.'

Thousands of patients will also lose their hospital and GP appointments after some trusts postponed all non-urgent procedures and clinics on Monday.

It includes hip and knee replacements, cataract surgery, maternity checks and even some cancer treatments.

NHS England has told patients to ensure they have enough medication to get them through the three-day weekend after informing GP surgeries they can close all day on Monday.

It issued guidance instructing hospitals to contact patients to let them know if appointments have been postponed.

NHS England said: 'NHS staff will work to ensure that urgent and emergency services... are available.' Schools and nurseries are also set to close on Monday.

Serious: The King returns to Buckingham Palace after yesterday's ceremonies

No Monday lunch from McDonald's

By **Consumer Affairs Editor**

McDONALD'S has announced it will close its doors on the day of the funeral – but pubs are set to stay open.

The fast-food giant, with about 1,300 sites, said it would remain shut until 5pm on Monday.

The company said: 'In honour of HM Queen Elizabeth II and to enable everyone at McDonald's to pay their respects, our restaurants across the UK will be closed from midnight until 5pm on Monday.' Deliveries will also not be available until after 5pm.

However, some hospitality firms plan to operate, with thousands of pubs likely to be the only outlets open throughout the day. The UK's biggest pub groups, including Stonegate and Mitchells and Butlers, intend to keep venues open to show the footage, while an announcement from Wetherspoon is imminent. The British Beer and Pub Association believe pubs will provide a place for communities to come together to view the funeral.

The majority of retailers, including supermarkets, theme parks, cinemas, theatres, offices and factories are due to close on Monday, which is now a bank holiday. Home deliveries by Amazon and others will also be halted.

There is no requirement for hospitality operators or retailers to shut on the day of the funeral.

The Government guidance states: 'Some businesses may wish to consider closing or postponing events... this is at the discretion of individual businesses.'

Oops! Center Parcs in new funeral muddle

By **Sean Poulter**
Consumer Affairs Editor

THE farce at Center Parcs over whether it will open on the day of the Queen's funeral took a new twist yesterday.

The holiday firm initially told guests they would have to leave its five sites by 10am on Monday under plans to close for 24 hours. But following pressure from angry customers it performed an embarrassing U-turn.

Yet Center Parcs appeared to perform another U-turn yesterday, telling guests on social media they will be allowed to stay on its parks but must 'remain in their lodges'.

It saw further criticism levelled at the short-breaks company, with one social media user accusing it of creating a 'hostage situation'. But Center Parcs has now clarified that visitors will be allowed to leave accommodation, but facilities, including pools, restaurants, and leisure activities, will be closed.

The latest instalment of the PR meltdown emerged via the company's Twitter feed, which carried a series of conflicting exchanges with customers.

One guest called Kim contacted the company referring to a tweet she had seen suggesting Center Parcs was 'going to kick a family with two small babies [sic] out of their park on Monday 19th'. She added: 'As a mum with a three-month-old I'd be absolutely traumatised, I know it's history but surely you can do something else!'

In an initial response, Center Parcs said: 'Hi Kim – we recognise leaving the village for one night is an inconvenience, we have listened and made the decision to allow guests to remain [in the] village on Monday, however, the village will still be closed, so guests will need to remain in their lodges.'

The same response was sent to other customers complaining about the situation. In a clarification on Twitter, Center Parcs said: 'You will be allowed to walk around the village, but the facilities will be closed.'

Center Parcs has offered a 17 per cent refund to affected visitors. In a statement, the firm said the decision to close parks was 'a mark of respect'.

It added: 'We have contacted all the guests due to arrive on Monday September 19 and offered them a number of different options.

'The vast majority of our guests are... due to arrive or depart on Monday September 19. We have however reviewed our position regarding the very small number of guests who are not due to depart on Monday and we will be allowing them to stay on our villages rather than having to leave and return on Tuesday. The villages will still remain closed on Monday and we will be offering a discount for the lack of facilities available.'

MONARCH WHO SHAPED OUR LIVES 1981-1997

by DOMINIC SANDBROOK

The Queen must have watched It's A Royal Knockout in horror. What would her father George VI have said about such a spectacle?

NO WONDER the Queen called 1992 her 'annus horribilis'. Three of her children's marriages ended and Windsor Castle was damaged by fire. This troubled period reached a peak when the Queen stayed at Balmoral for days after Princess Diana's death in 1997. In the third part of his series on how Elizabeth II shaped modern Britain, historian DOMINIC SANDBROOK describes how she pulled the Crown through one of its most tumultuous decades...

AT THE beginning of the Thatcher era, one question dominated royal gossip. Elizabeth's eldest son, Charles, had turned 30 in 1978, yet he showed no signs of wanting to settle down.

In his twenties, the Prince of Wales had had plenty of girlfriends, including a young woman called Camilla Shand who later married Andrew Parker Bowles. But it was only in the autumn of 1980 that he began to show serious interest in a gawky young aristocratic girl called Diana Spencer, who was just 19.

The Queen was delighted. Diana seemed the perfect bride; marriage and children would cement the future of the dynasty.

Yet even at this early stage, there were hints of trouble ahead.

With her coltish good looks, Diana rapidly became a media favourite, and when reporters besieged the Royal Family at Sandringham, the Queen momentarily lost her famous cool and snapped 'Why don't you go away?'

The wedding itself, on July 29, 1981, came as a much-needed tonic after two years of terrible news. The economy was mired in recession, unemployment was heading towards a post-war record of 3 million, the inner cities were ablaze, and the Thatcher government was in desperate trouble.

More than any other royal event before, the wedding was pure theatre, with Diana in a fairytale wedding dress and Charles in full naval uniform.

Across the world, a record 750 million people tuned in to watch.

The arrival of Diana marked a subtle shift in the dynamics within the Royal Family.

Until 1981, Elizabeth herself had been the undisputed star.

NOW not only did she have to share the national stage with Margaret Thatcher, but she was not even the most famous woman in the family.

To many younger observers, the middle-aged Queen's understated substance simply could not compete with Diana's glittering style.

At 55, Elizabeth seemed remarkably unchanged, apart from her greying hair, from the young woman who had risen to the throne in 1952.

Yet even as the cheers at St Paul's Cathedral were dying away, there was a sense of the ground slipping from beneath her feet.

The Queen had always presented herself as the embodiment of consensus. But public life was becoming increasingly violent: in June 1981, for example, a deranged young man even fired six blank shots at the Monarch during Trooping the Colour.

Elizabeth's stoicism and courage — she expertly controlled her horse, and continued with the ceremony — won the respect of the nation.

But worse was to come.

In July 1982, another disturbed young man, Michael Fagan, broke into Buckingham Palace in the dead of night.

There, he found his way to the Queen's bedroom and woke her up to listen to a diatribe about his family.

'I got out of bed,' Elizabeth later told a friend, 'put on my dressing gown and slippers, drew myself up to my full regal height, pointed to the door, and said "Get out!" — and he didn't.'

So she kept him talking while she called the police switchboard, and eventually bodyguards arrived to take Fagan away.

Of course, the Queen herself remained tremendously popular, and when her son Andrew served in the Falklands War, where he flew Sea King helicopters, it was a valuable reminder of the monarchy's function as a symbol of national pride and public patriotism.

In a sign of the changing climate, though, it was not the Queen but Mrs Thatcher, hailed by the Press as the personification of Britannia, who took the troops' salute at the victory parade in the City of London.

Rumours of a rift between the Queen and her Prime Minister now swirled around Westminster, and in 1986 the Sunday Times ran a bombshell front-page story claiming that Elizabeth considered Thatcher 'uncaring, confrontational and socially divisive'.

The Palace denied it, of course. But not since the days of Queen Victoria, who had famously failed to get on with Gladstone, had there been such speculation about bad relations between the monarchy and Number 10.

For three decades, Elizabeth had gently adapted the monarchy to match the pace of social change, striking the perfect balance between tradition and modernity.

But now the image of the monarchy was beginning to deteriorate.

Nothing typified this more than the bitter relationship between the Palace and the Press. When the Queen organised a drinks party for national editors at the end of 1981, Barry Askew, the editor of the News of the World, asked belligerently why, if Princess Diana was so keen on privacy, she went to the shops herself, instead of sending a servant.

'That was a pompous remark, Mr Askew,' snapped the Queen. Even 20 years before, such a moment would have been unthinkable.

BUT in a more populist age, less tolerant of inherited privilege, the papers were already full of rumours about Diana's unhappiness, from stories that she had thrown herself down the stairs to gossip that she was suffering from bulimia.

Contrary to the caricatures, Elizabeth had always been a relatively indulgent mother.

And now, as her children and their spouses openly revelled in their fame and fortune — Diana racking up gigantic shopping bills, Andrew dating the actress Koo Stark — she seemed incapable of reining them in.

It was a common enough situation. But most families do not live in the public limelight, and most families are not expected to be models to the nation.

At the end of 1986, Elizabeth's Christmas broadcast still drew an audience of 15 million people. But six months later, 18 million people tuned in for a very different television spectacle, which dealt the monarchy a near-fatal blow.

The Grand Knockout Tournament, better known as It's A Royal Knockout, was the brainchild of Elizabeth's youngest son Edward,

Scan this QR code to watch a clip of It's A Royal Knockout on The Mail+

Pictures: PHOTOGRAPHERS INTERNATIONAL

Royal drama: The Duchess of York, Prince Edward, Prince Andrew and Princess Anne in the ill-fated TV show

IT'S A ROYAL KNOCKOUT

Brash: Fergie, left, and, above, Princess Anne with two of her celebrity team — actor Anthony Andrews and Cliff Richard

who had walked out of the Royal Marines and fancied himself as a theatrical impresario.

Staged at Alton Towers in June 1987, it pitched four teams of celebrities — including John Travolta, George Lazenby, Toyah Willcox, Gary Lineker and Barbara Windsor — against each other in a series of bizarre games. The team captains, meanwhile, were Prince Edward, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and his new wife, the brash Sarah Ferguson.

It was, of course, a disaster.

Never in living memory had the monarchy contrived to make itself look so ridiculous — and when Edward stormed off in a huff at the end, angry that the Press failed to share his enthusiasm for the event, it only added to the sense of chaos and humiliation.

Elizabeth herself must have watched in horror. Could her own father, George VI, ever have imagined that one day the nation would be watching his grandchildren cheering on Travolta chasing Cliff Richard, who was dressed as a leek?

'It was a terrible mistake,' one of her friends told the historian Ben Pimlott. 'She was against it. But one of her faults is that she can't say no.'

For centuries, Britain had always had a small republican minority. But now Elizabeth and her family were confronting something much worse — not hatred and opposition, but ridicule and contempt.

None of them could compete with Diana's glamorous good looks, charismatic presence and unerring eye for publicity.

But as her marriage to Prince Charles slid towards the rocks, the monarchy's image became dangerously tarnished.

One by one, Elizabeth's children's marriages fell apart. Anne separated from her husband, Captain Mark Phillips, in 1989, while Andrew and Sarah separated three years later.

The biggest blow, however, was the publication of Andrew Morton's biography of Diana in the summer of 1992. In stark black and white, it laid out Diana's version of the collapse of her marriage and what she claimed was her cold and cruel treatment by the House of Windsor.

A few months later, one paper published pictures of the Duchess of York cavorting topless with an American friend, while another published transcripts of Diana's secretly recorded conversations, in which she described life with the Royal Family as 'torture'.

Worse was to follow. In November, a fire broke out at Windsor Castle. Several roofs collapsed, while state rooms were gutted.

Television cameras caught a poignant glimpse of the stricken Elizabeth looking on, weary and distraught, as firemen battled to control the blaze.

Yet when the government announced that it would pay the £40m cost of repairs, there was an outcry. In response, the Queen agreed that for the first time, she and her family would pay income tax. In a speech at the Guildhall, she frankly admitted her shock and disquiet. 1992, she said memorably, had turned out to be her 'annus horribilis'.

And still the bad news continued. The Press published transcripts of a conversation between Charles and his mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles, in which he told her 'Your greatest achievement is to love me', and fantasised about being one of her tampons.

The collapse of Charles and Diana's marriage dominated the headlines for years.

The most damaging moment came in 1995, when Diana gave a blisteringly frank interview to the BBC's Martin Bashir, explaining that there had been 'three people' in her marriage, and admitting that both parties had had affairs.

Elizabeth was quick to react, writing to urge Charles and Diana to get their divorce over with and to stop airing their dirty linen in public.

The crowds still loved Elizabeth; wherever she went, people presented her with flowers. But she now seemed an exhausted, even lonely figure — a mother wounded by the mistakes, humiliations and public criticism of her children.

And then, on the last evening of August 1997, came the turning point. Elizabeth was at Balmoral with her grandchildren, William and Harry, whose mother was in Paris with her new lover, Dodi Fayed.

LATE that night, the news broke that Diana and Fayed had been injured in a car crash. By morning, the world learned they were dead.

After a brief appearance at church, the Queen and her family disappeared from sight. For five days she remained behind closed doors, trying to shield her grief-stricken grandsons from the public eye, while an intense mood of almost hysterical mourning gripped the nation.

The public demanded a spectacular show of public anguish, in keeping with the new fashion for emotional incontinence. But Elizabeth, steeped in the old-fashioned values of a more serious age, had been brought up to prize discipline and self-restraint.

She was stunned, therefore, when the nation turned against her, the Press demanding that she appear in public and fly the Palace flag at half-mast.

Once again, she was overshadowed by her own Prime Minister; this time, it was Britain's new Labour premier, Tony Blair, who caught the mood with his carefully crafted praise for the 'People's Princess'.

For a few days, indeed, it seemed as if the tide of emotion might sweep away the monarchy itself.

But at this moment of supreme crisis, the Queen showed the political dexterity for which she will be long remembered.

Returning to London from Balmoral, she gave a highly charged live address to the nation, talking (perhaps slightly reluctantly), of her admiration for Diana, her grief as a grandmother and her determination to protect William and Harry.

No politician could have done a better job. Almost overnight, much of the public animosity evaporated. And in that moment, Elizabeth found a new, lasting and enormously successful role — as grandmother not merely to her son's two boys, but to the nation itself.

TOMORROW: Bond stunt that revitalised her reign

Daily Mail
COMMENT

A day of grandeur, grief and gratitude

EVEN in a country with a history as long, distinguished and glorious as ours, barely a day can have pulsated with such intensity and emotion.

Queen Elizabeth II was not just the longest-reigning and longest-living British monarch, but she was indisputably the most loved.

The huge affection in which she was held was illustrated by the enormous crowds lining the route of the procession as she left Buckingham Palace for the final time in her crown-adorned coffin.

And it was reinforced by the snaking lines of mourners filing past the late sovereign's body in reverence and condolence as it lies in state in venerable Westminster Hall until her funeral on Monday.

There is, of course, an unattractive tendency for people in the 21st century to attend any high profile event that might generate social media 'likes'.

But those descending on London were different, determined to make a solemn demonstration of their gratitude to a figurehead who set an impeccable example in everything she did during a lifetime of uncomplaining and dutiful service.

These people came not just from all across the country, but from all parts of the globe, and from every age group, ethnicity and background.

Could there be a more stunning refutation of the callow sneerers in the liberal elite and Left-wing Press who regard the monarchy, and the traditional British values it embodies, as hopelessly outdated? How utterly out of touch they appear.

In a highly-charged week of memorable, heart-breaking and sombre moments since the Queen's sad death, yesterday was perhaps the most remarkable.

Drawing on all the pageantry the country can summon, Her Majesty's casket left the palace by horse-drawn gun carriage in melancholy progression led by King Charles, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex.

This grieving nation, however, would have been heartened by William and Harry walking side by side in the cortege – a poignant echo of Princess Diana's funeral almost 25 years ago to the day.

Their once seemingly unbreakable relationship has, of course, been severely strained by Harry and Meghan taking self-serving and spiteful potshots at the Royal Family from their Californian bolthole.

With luck, however, the grief of their beloved grandmother's death will act as the catalyst which persuades them to end the enmity. The Duke of Sussex binning his tell-all book would be a perfect start.

In this week which none of us will ever forget, it's been drummed home how the Queen showed the world that there is more that unites than divides us.

From prince to pauper, it's an important lesson we should all remember.

Putting a lid on prices?

THERE is, of course, no room for complacency. But could the tide finally be turning in the war on inflation?

The cost of living has dipped into single digits (just) thanks to some relief at the petrol pumps over the summer, although food prices are still rising sharply.

A week ago, the notion we could be near or – whisper it – even past the peak would have seemed preposterous. But Liz Truss's bold energy price freeze should deal spiralling prices a massive blow.

Even so, with inflation still increasing by nearly 10 per cent a year – playing havoc with the finances of families, firms and the Government – the Bank of England must bear down on it with higher interest rates.

The economy has been buffeted by global headwinds beyond the Treasury's control, including war and Covid. But with a raft of positive economic news this week, from growth to record low unemployment, the storm may at last be abating.

We must not swap the mystical beauty of this epic pomp and pageantry for a charmless, slimmed down monarchy

by Stephen Glover

NOT much happens these days without former Labour prime minister Gordon Brown stepping forward and telling us what we should be doing.

Last weekend, he forecast that during the reign of King Charles, the Royal Family will become 'more like a Scandinavian monarchy'. This is the 'slimmed down' version of monarchy, where Royals get about on bicycles and don't dress up in outlandish uniforms.

Mr Brown said that Charles had previously 'indicated that the monarchy is going to be smaller'. He expects the King to perform his duties in a more informal and 'approachable' way than his mother.

Gilded

It is a superficially attractive idea, which I have supported in the past. A slimmed-down monarchy would get rid of minor royals, who are often tiresome. The new King is said to want the Royal Family to consist of an inner core of the Sovereign and Queen Consort, children and grandchildren.

If a new-style monarchy is going to take Scandinavian royals as its model, it will have also to dispense with a good deal of the pomp and pageantry: the gilded carriages, the strange proclamations, the frequent gun salutes, the military parades and the rest of the colourful rigmarole.

This is the plan that may have been forming in the King's mind, and is probably backed by much of the political class. But is it what the British people really want?

I believe that many, but by no means all, would be happy to see much less of the minor royals. I certainly would. Yet I doubt that the public wants the Royal Family to swap carriages for efficient German automobiles, or plumed horses for bicycles, in a bid to ape its Scandinavian counterparts.

As far as getting rid of the royal hangers-on is concerned, I wonder how practicable this would be. I'd be happy never to hear a peep out of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex again (unless they learn how to behave themselves), but unfortunately they can't be banished and forgotten.

Even if Meghan and Harry were deprived of the right to call themselves 'their Royal Highnesses', they would still go on being of interest to millions of people, and trading on their former connection with an institution they appear to despise.

Nor, having become extremely rich on account of their royal status, do this ambitious couple need more money from the King. They will be able to go on causing trouble, and attracting attention, even if they are expelled from 'The Firm'.

By all means let King Charles cast them into outer darkness unless they change for the better. However, it won't make much difference, at any rate for the time being. They will still get a lot of media coverage.

The same is true of less obnoxious minor royals. Charles could, for example, try to write Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie (the daughters of Prince Andrew) out of the script. But they are financially self-sufficient. They would continue to put themselves about and be noticed by the media.

For as long as there are people who want to hear about the antics of minor royals, and there certainly are, they can't be disassociated from the monarchy. One day, fans may tire of Meghan, Harry and the rest of the gang, but that day is almost certainly a long way off.

Perhaps the only member of the Royal Family who could be removed more or less immediately from the public gaze by the King is Prince Andrew. Unless he errs again, few are going to follow his future activities with much interest.

So Charles is at liberty to prune the Royal Family as he attempts to create a pared-down monarchy, and he is right to try. But I'm afraid it is going to be uphill work.

I am less sanguine about the prospect that much of the pomp and ceremony — which has moved so many hearts in recent days — may be treated to a utilitarian makeover. That would be a dangerous step.

Yesterday afternoon, the nation witnessed the most affecting scene since Queen Elizabeth's death. Her coffin was drawn on a gun carriage from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall, followed by King Charles, his sons and others. The Band of the Scots Guards and the Band of the Grenadier Guards played haunting marches during the procession.

Some in the large crowd were in tears as this sombre cavalcade passed, and many watching at home or at work will have cried. It was beautiful and it was dignified. There could have been no better way of honouring our beloved Queen.

Regalia

The detail of much of the pageantry was probably not understood by some onlookers — and I include myself. There was a Sovereign's Piper and an Imperial State Crown. Later, there was an Earl Marshal and a Lord Great Chamberlain.

What we did understand, though, was that this occasion was an expression of love and respect. Generations of accumulated knowledge was invested in the meticulous procession, the music, the regalia and, ultimately, in the solemn placing of the coffin on its catafalque — unusual word — in Westminster Hall.

What we saw wouldn't have been possible in a Scandinavian monarchy as envisaged by Gordon Brown, and seemingly the King. This was peculiarly British and no other nation on earth could have done it half as well.

Do we really wish to jettison all this in exchange for a charmless, slimmed-down monarchy, the mystical beauties abandoned in favour of what is easily recognised and familiar to the modern world?

The Church of England made a similar mistake when it largely got rid of its poetic 1662 Book of Common Prayer, which uses an elevated language to refer to God, and replaced it with bureaucratic prose. The monarchy should not go down the same dismal path.

Admirable

Incidentally, I don't at all mind that King Charles should have yesterday worn a Field Marshal's uniform, even though, so far as I am aware, he has never heard a shot fired in war.

But I thought it hard to deprive Prince Andrew and Prince Harry of their right to wear uniform, especially as both men have been in the line of fire. Neither of them is admirable, but they have risked their lives for their country. This was the moment for the King to be generous — and occupy the moral high ground.

Will the Scandinavian bandwagon roll on? Will we end up with royals wearing bicycle clips? I hope not. The lesson of the past few days, and I am sure of the next few, is that most people cherish the pageantry that is fundamental to our national story. Flummery is something else entirely.

Beware of those who talk of paring down the monarchy unless they are solely concerned with pensioning off minor royals. Those who yearn to slim it down may be republicans in disguise who want gradually to get rid of it.

So we look forward, in dread, to the funeral next Monday. The world will be watching in awe, and perhaps a little enviously, as our ancient country marks the passing of its great Queen with pomp and ceremony.

Picture: REX

Loyal: Ladies-in-waiting including (third from left, l-r) Dame Mary, Dame Annabel, Lady Susan and Mrs Rhodes at Westminster Hall yesterday

Last sorrowful duty of the Head Girls... the fun but formidable ladies-in-waiting whose service has finally ended

by REBECCA ENGLISH

IT'S hard to imagine a more capable — or formidable — bunch of women. Known as 'the Head Girls', the Queen's ladies-in-waiting were constantly by her side, some, astonishingly, for more than 60 years.

They were upright, aristocratic and utterly loyal companions and friends. They dealt with everything from public and personal correspondence and organising the royal diary to accompanying the monarch on engagements, arranging private family events, Christmas and birthday gifts, and even sitting down with the Queen to watch the racing.

Like her family, they are currently putting aside their deep personal grief to help prepare for Monday's state funeral. And like the staff at Clarence House, who have been told to expect redundancies, they are facing a dramatic change.

While sources say it is too early even to begin discussing their future, it is likely that at least two of the five or so women currently working will retire immediately, as they are well into their 80s. They had remained in post because they wanted to stay by the Queen until the end.

An insider has told the Mail that one or two could stay on for at least a few weeks more as Camilla, the new Queen Consort, will be in need of their wise heads — and keen ear for palace gossip.

Another source said yesterday: 'Everyone has a girl crush on the ladies-in-waiting. They are fun, formidable — and know absolutely everything. Fascinating and terrifying in equal measure.

'They are utterly fabulous and have been such loyal servants to Her Majesty.'

Historically, a lady-in-waiting has always been a female 'personal assistant' at court, often taken from the nobility, to serve a senior royal woman.

The ladies' tasks today are mainly administrative, but without a shadow of a doubt they remain some of the most trusted, discreet and powerful figures at court — even though they don't have the most prestigious job title, or earn a salary.

That's one of the reasons the role almost always goes to a woman of aristocratic background — there are few wealthy enough to be able to afford to take on such a demanding position simply out of love and loyalty to the Crown. The Queen's five most notable constant companions were Lady Susan Hussey, Dame Mary Morrison, Lady Elizabeth Leeming, Susan Rhodes and Dame Annabel Whitehead. They were there, yesterday, as their mistress's coffin was brought to Westminster Hall. Typically elegant in their grief, dressed in black, pearls and diamonds, some leant on walking sticks, others on umbrellas, but they were determined to remain with her to the very end.

'Fascinating and terrifying in equal parts'

The ladies are modest in number compared with those who served past Queens — Elizabeth I had no fewer than 30 ladies-in-waiting, all reported by the Spanish ambassador of the time to be 'very magnificent and in splendid style'.

Crucially, today's contingent were all finely tuned to the Queen's needs and moods.

It is said that when she was on engagements, they would keep a watch for gestures that communicated her feelings. If the Queen twisted her wedding ring around her finger, for example, this was apparently an indication to her lady-in-waiting that she wasn't enjoying a conversation and wanted to be rescued.

They were also privy to her real feelings about some of her royal duties. Listening to the Everly Brothers perform their hit Cathy's Clown at the Royal Variety Performance in the 1960s, she is said to have turned discreetly to one lady-in-waiting and said: 'They sound like two cats being strangled!'

The nuances of their roles and titles can be confusing. For while the Countess of Airlie in recent years held the most senior title — 'Lady of the Bedchamber' — it was Lady Susan Hussey, 83, who took charge on a day-to-day basis as the leading 'Woman of the Bedchamber'.

Tradition holds that a Woman of the Bedchamber would be in daily attendance on the monarch, helping her with bathing and dressing — although today they are relieved of the task of entertaining her with music and dancing as was the case in Tudor times.

Hussey was appointed in 1960, the year of Prince Andrew's birth, originally to deal with the Queen's correspondence, but she rose to become her indispensable right-hand woman and great friend.

She is the fifth and youngest daughter of the 12th Earl Waldegrave and was married to Marmaduke Hussey, later chairman of the board of governors of the BBC.

Such is her closeness to the Royal Family, she was asked to be a godmother of Prince William, and also to accompany the Queen to the funeral of her late husband, Prince Philip.

And when the Queen wanted to help Meghan come to terms with the complexities of royal life, it was Lady Susan she personally sent to see her. Unfortunately, Meghan is said to have declined her efforts to help, allegedly failing to appreciate just what a repository of wisdom she could be.

Lady Susan is a Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO) and received the Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Household Long and Faithful Service Medal with 30, 40, 50 and 60-year bars.

'They're utterly fabulous and loyal servants'

Cool, calm and effective, she likes to remain enigmatically in the background at royal engagements, aside from collecting flowers and gently nudging on the receiving line.

But in 2001 she was spotted passing the Queen a pound coin so she could buy The Big Issue from a magazine seller while on an official day trip to Brighton.

The Honourable Mary Morrison, 85, worked closely with the Queen since 1960 and is said to have shared her passion for horse racing. She was made a Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order in 2013.

In 2018, she gave the Queen a fright after she tumbled down a flight of stairs leading into the ballroom at Balmoral while standing next to her, and suffered a broken ankle.

But she stoically returned to work on crutches.

In 2017, the Queen appointed two 'younger' ladies-in-waiting after the retirement of some of her other companions.

The Court Circular announced them as 'the Lady Elizabeth Leeming and Mrs Simon Rhodes to be Extra Ladies-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.'

Lady Elizabeth Leeming is the

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Queen's first cousin once removed, and the daughter of the 17th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne.

Mrs Rhodes is married to Simon Rhodes, the son of the late Margaret Rhodes, the Queen's cousin and one of her childhood best friends, who died in 2016.

She was among those who joined 'HMS Bubble', the group who helped protect the monarch at Windsor Castle during the Covid-19 pandemic, along with Dame Annabel Whitehead, 79.

Dame Annabel had previously worked as lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret, but after Margaret's death in 2002 began working for the Queen.

She was made a Dame Commander of Royal Victorian Order (DCVO) in 2014 and has also received the Queen Elizabeth II Royal Household Long and Faithful Service Medal for 20 years of service.

A royal source said: 'I think most of them have been waiting until the Queen went, before retiring themselves.

She joined 'HMS Bubble' during Covid

But it could be that one or two stay on just to help the new Queen Consort ease into her role.

'It's a very different set up at Buckingham Palace compared to the one over at Clarence House.'

Another source said they didn't believe the Queen Consort planned to appoint any new ladies-in-waiting 'at this point'.

She already has two very talented women heading up her private office — Sophie Densham, her private secretary, and Belinda Kim, assistant private secretary — who also accompany her on official engagements.

And it has long been rumoured that one of her closest and longest-standing aides, Amanda MacManus, who left royal service last year, will return in a 'super-charged' new role.

'There's no hurry as it is such early days and the Queen Consort has such a great team in place,' said a source. 'But it is inevitable that her office will need to expand.'

As it does, the Queen Consort must be able to relax amid a close and trusted circle of ladies of her own.

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Craig Brown

www.dailymail.co.uk/craigbrown

Queue here to show you are British...

THIS week in Edinburgh, the queue of those wishing to pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth II stretched back a mile. Some estimate that the queue in London may take up to 30 hours.

It's something of a paradox. Although the Queen took part in any number of activities during her long and varied life, she was never allowed to queue.

Yet queuing, along with the Beatles and taking milk in our tea, and, of course, the Royal Family, is something for which we Britons are known throughout the world.

The Hungarian humorist George Mikes arrived in Britain in 1938. He immediately noticed our propensity for queuing. 'An Englishman, even if he is alone, forms an orderly queue of one,' he observed.

Food shortages during World War II meant that queuing became less of a pastime than a necessity. Yet people were still happy to queue for items that, in other countries, might well have seemed inessential.

During the Blitz in 1940, Winston Churchill was driving through a London slum when he noticed a long queue outside a shop. He stopped the car and sent his detective to find out what the shortage was. The detective came back with the answer: birdseed.

Mikes celebrated the English queue in his first and most famous book, How To Be An Alien, published immediately after the war in 1946.

'At weekends an Englishman queues at the bus stop, travels out to Richmond, queues up for a boat on the Thames, then queues up for tea, then queues up for ice cream, then joins a few more odd queues for the sake of the fun of it, then queues up at the bus stop, and has the time of his life.'

There have, of course, been times in the post-war years when some people sensed that our propensity for queuing was on the wane.

In 1954, a clergyman from Burnley wrote a strong letter to The Times. Proper queuing, he claimed, had become a thing of the past.

'There is some order until a bus arrives at a stop, but that little goes then. If two arrive together, the situation is worse. It is true there is no violence, but a lot of people sidle on the buses out of their turn with great skill and an appearance of distinterestedness.'

A year later a Londoner wrote a similar letter to the Sunday Express. 'What has happened to the shape of the bus queues? I recall their neat and orderly double-file formation during the war. Today they straggle and lack not only their former parade-ground precision but also bonhomie,' he complained.

But, for the most part, we remained a nation of obedient — even enthusiastic — queuers.

In April 1960, the writer Christopher Isherwood arrived from Los Angeles to spend a fortnight in London. He was greatly impressed by 'the utter fantastic patience of everyone when a line has to be formed or a train or bus waited for. You feel the wartime mentality still very strongly.'

A year letter, a Mr D.L. of Orpington wrote to the Daily Mirror saying that German friends taking a holiday in Britain had been particularly impressed not just by 'the orderly queues at bus stops' but also by 'people taking newspapers from unattended stands and leaving the correct money'.

Respect: Mourners wait in line to see the Queen lying in state Picture: LNP

Sixty years on, for all the recent reports of our social fabric coming under stress, I sense there is still something about a queue that acts like a magnet on the British psyche.

In London, there is always a queue outside the Hard Rock Cafe in Park Lane, even though their burgers taste exactly the same as everyone else's. When Britons spot any queue, they can't resist the temptation to join it.

QUEUES breed like rabbits. In my seaside town, there are two fish and chip shops, a hundred yards apart. Though they are both under the same ownership, people are naturally attracted to whichever one happens to have the longest queue.

You might have thought that modern technology would have done away with queuing. In fact, it has served only to expand it.

These days, we can even queue by ourselves, in the comfort of our own homes. If ever a phrase captured the spirit of our times it is: 'You are being held in a queue.' I used to think it a deterrent; but in fact it's a lure.

Matchless! Lowry set to fetch £8m

By **Emma Powell**
Deputy Showbusiness News Editor

IT is one of the best-known paintings by one our most-loved artists.

Now LS Lowry's portrayal of crowds of matchstick-like figures streaming into a football stadium is set to break records at auction.

Going To The Match could fetch up to £8million. The 1953 work features Bolton Wanderers' former ground Burnden Park, near Lowry's home.

It is being sold at Christie's in London next month by The Players Foundation charity, which helps footballers cope with financial issues and dementia.

The current record for a Lowry is £5.6million, set twice in 2011.

Crowd pleaser: Going To The Match features Lowry's trademark matchstick figures

After drop in petrol prices and energy cap boost...

Cost of living hopes rise as inflation falls

By **Lucy White**
Chief City Reporter

HOPES are growing that Britain may have reached the peak of the cost of living crisis after inflation fell last month.

Prices climbed by 9.9 per cent in the year to August, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – slightly lower than July's 40-year high of 10.1 per cent.

Although inflation is rising more rapidly than the Bank of England's 2 per cent target, August was the first time it has eased in almost a year.

The drop was driven by lower fuel prices, with petrol falling by 14.3p per litre to 175.2p on average between July and August, and diesel by 11.3p to 186.6p.

Now that new Prime Minister Liz Truss has capped household energy bills, some economists are hopeful the worst of the cost of living crunch may have passed.

Daniel Mahoney, economist at lender Handelsbanken, said: 'There is no doubt

'May have hit the peak'

that the introduction of a fixed-unit energy price cap has completely transformed the profile of expected headline rate of inflation, with the UK now likely to be at or around peak inflation.' Previously, experts had thought inflation could hit 18 per cent early next year.

But households are unlikely to notice the pressure easing any time soon.

Food prices were the biggest contributor to inflation between July and August, according to the ONS – jumping by 13.1 per cent in the year to August, the highest rate since 2008. The largest rises came from milk, cheese and eggs.

The 1.5 per cent rise in food prices between July and August alone was the largest for that month-long period since 1995.

But, while the energy bill freeze will bring inflation down in the short term, economists fear it could fuel inflation over the longer term as households and businesses keep spending.

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee is due to meet next week, and is expected to hike interest rates again. Traders are predicting an unprecedented 0.75 percentage point rise, taking the base rate from 1.75 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

Despite the positive signs, other economists are not convinced inflation has hit its peak. Julian Jessop, of the Institute of Economic Affairs, said: 'The energy price guarantee means consumer price inflation will probably peak at around 11 per cent in the coming months, before falling sharply next year.

'The latest producer price data also add to evidence – from business surveys and commodity markets – that pipeline pressures are easing.

'Nonetheless, the Bank of England has more work to do to get inflation back down to the 2 per cent target.'

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COMMENTARY by Alex Brummer
CITY EDITOR

Glimmer of light at the end of a long tunnel?

BRITAIN'S inflation nightmare is finally abating with the annual increase in consumer prices dropping below 10 per cent last month.

And there could be more relief to come as Liz Truss's commitment to limiting average household energy bills to £2,500 over the next two winters makes a positive impact on the cost of living crunch.

The drop-off in the headline rate of inflation will be a source of relief for all of us and, of course, in No 10. It could help ease fears of a winter of discontent if trades unions, which have suspended industrial action during the period of national mourning, moderate some of their more outrageous demands.

Unfortunately, food prices are still rising in spite of an easing in supply chain bottlenecks. The big food manufacturers have mainly chosen to maintain profit margins and pass on the higher costs to the grocery chains and consumers.

Moderating prices are leaving some analysts with egg over their faces. At the end of last month leading investment bank Goldman Sachs predicted UK consumer prices could reach an alarming 22 per cent in January 2023.

Its dire forecast was among the factors that sent the pound tumbling on the foreign exchange markets. In its latest assessment, just issued, Goldman said it now expected UK consumer prices to peak at 10.9 per cent next month. The Bank of England had also warned that inflation will rise to 13.3 per cent in the final months of the year but will now be likely to have to backtrack.

The current inflation rate of under 10 per cent is closely aligned with our main competitors in the G7 and considerably lower than in the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain.

It is still way above the Bank of England's official target of 2 per cent, which means there will be little relief for homeowners in the months ahead, as interest rates continue to climb.

Nevertheless, after a gloomy year, there is a glimmer of light at the end of a long tunnel.

Ephraim Hardcastle

PRINCESS Anne's heartfelt dignity in the public mourning of her mother prompts the question: Why hasn't she been appointed a new Counsellor of State and allowed to stand in for her brother, the King? With Charles's elevation to the throne, Princess Beatrice takes his place as counsellor, joining William, Harry and her father Andrew. Anne was a counsellor from 1971 until she was replaced by William in 2003 when he turned 21. With non-working royals Andrew and Harry surely unsuitable to continue as counsellors, shouldn't King Charles send them packing, amend the Regency Act 1937 and restore his sister as a matter of urgency?

THE King's brotherly concession to allow Andrew to wear his uniform at one of the ceremonial farewells comes after the disgraced prince pointed out he was the only one of the Queen's four children to have seen active service (the senior medal on his chest is the South Atlantic medal awarded after the Falklands conflict). Charles served but not in a theatre of war, Anne never served and Edward managed four months of training with the Royal Marines.

ANNE'S husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence was expected to be promoted by the Queen to Admiral in 2020 to mark his 65th birthday at the same time as Andrew received the honour for his 60th. When Andrew's promotion was halted, so was Tim's. The King is expected to make amends to his brother-in-law.

FOLLOWING a clash on the airwaves with Lady Victoria Hervey, pictured, Boris's former paramour Petronella Wyatt snaps: 'Was on Piers Morgan [Uncensored] with the most extraordinary woman called Lady Victoria Hervey. Most snobbish person I have ever met.' She adds of model Hervey, daughter of the late 6th Marquess of Bristol: 'Insisted on being called "Lady Victoria" and described her profession as "aristocrat". Enough to make one a Communist.'

SIR Kenneth Branagh complains that portraying Boris in the Sky Atlantic drama, This England, involved three hours of daily make-up. 'I had to wear various prosthetics, a hairpiece and we had to pull down the eyelids,' he wails. 'It was brilliant but meant I was a soup-consuming person all day. I wasn't allowed to chew.' Eton Mess through a straw anyone?

IS pen company founder George S Parker spinning in his grave after the new King's ink malfunction at Hillsborough Castle? The company has two Royal Warrants from the late Queen and her successor, manufacturing pens and pencils for mum and grander sounding writing instruments for Charles. At least he didn't bark: 'I can't bear this bloody writing instrument.'

HM's royal tantrum amuses former jewellery boss Gerald Ratner – who disastrously joked about selling 'total crap' more than 30 years ago. He tweets: 'I think it was me who sold Charles that pen.'

john.mcentee@dailymail.co.uk

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1kg, £5.99/kg

RED TRACTOR CERTIFIED STANDARDS

10 Pork Medallions

When it's gone ...it's gone

£5.99

1kg, £5.99/kg

2 Scottish Salmon Fillets with Umami Butter

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Routed Russians 'are begging for peace talks'

Zelensky visits liberated town as Moscow's soldiers flee

By **James Franey**
Europe Correspondent

DESPERATE Russian officials are begging Ukraine for peace talks, it was revealed last night, as Volodymyr Zelensky made a surprise visit to a town retaken by his forces this week.

The Ukrainian president posed for pictures with jubilant troops in Izium, part of the north-eastern territory they have regained in a stunning counter-offensive.

Ukraine claimed the Kremlin has been so shocked by the lightning advance that its leaders want to return to the negotiating table. Olga Stefanishyna, a Ukrainian deputy prime minister, said Russia had sought to reopen talks on ending the six-month war.

'There's been sort of a public and unpublic outreach from various groups of the Russian officials,' she said.

It is not clear whether this was at the direction of Vladimir Putin, or an initiative by other leaders despairing at the situation on the ground.

'We are moving in only one direction'

Miss Stefanishyna said the move was rebuffed by the Ukrainian government, which hopes to retake more territory before sitting down for talks.

'Given the gravity of the crimes Russia commits on our soil – which get more and more serious every month – the leverage for negotiations is far from the [ones that took place] in February,' she said. 'It is absolutely essential that we use this momentum for the massive de-occupation of our territory. Then we will be ready for negotiations.'

Russian state TV, which usually toes the Kremlin line, has also floated the idea of negotiations since Putin's soldiers were chased out of the northeast Kharkiv region.

But Mr Zelensky has made it clear that retaking Crimea in the south, along with the eastern Donbas region, is a priority for his troops ahead of any compromise. Both were seized by Moscow's armed forces in 2014. Mr Zelensky made the daring visit to Izium, the gateway to the Donbas and just nine miles from the frontline, to meet Ukrainian troops and even pose for selfies.

'We are moving in only one direction – forward and towards victory,' he said. 'Our blue-yellow flag is already flying in de-occupied Izium. And it will be so in every Ukrainian city and village.'

Video footage shared by a Ukrainian diplomat showed the head of state briefly breaking off a speech to soldiers as a bomb exploded nearby.

Other footage from the region showed the bounty left by fleeing Russian soldiers, including a large cache of ammunition hidden under a carpet. It is thought they left more than 100 tanks and dozens of armoured vehicles.

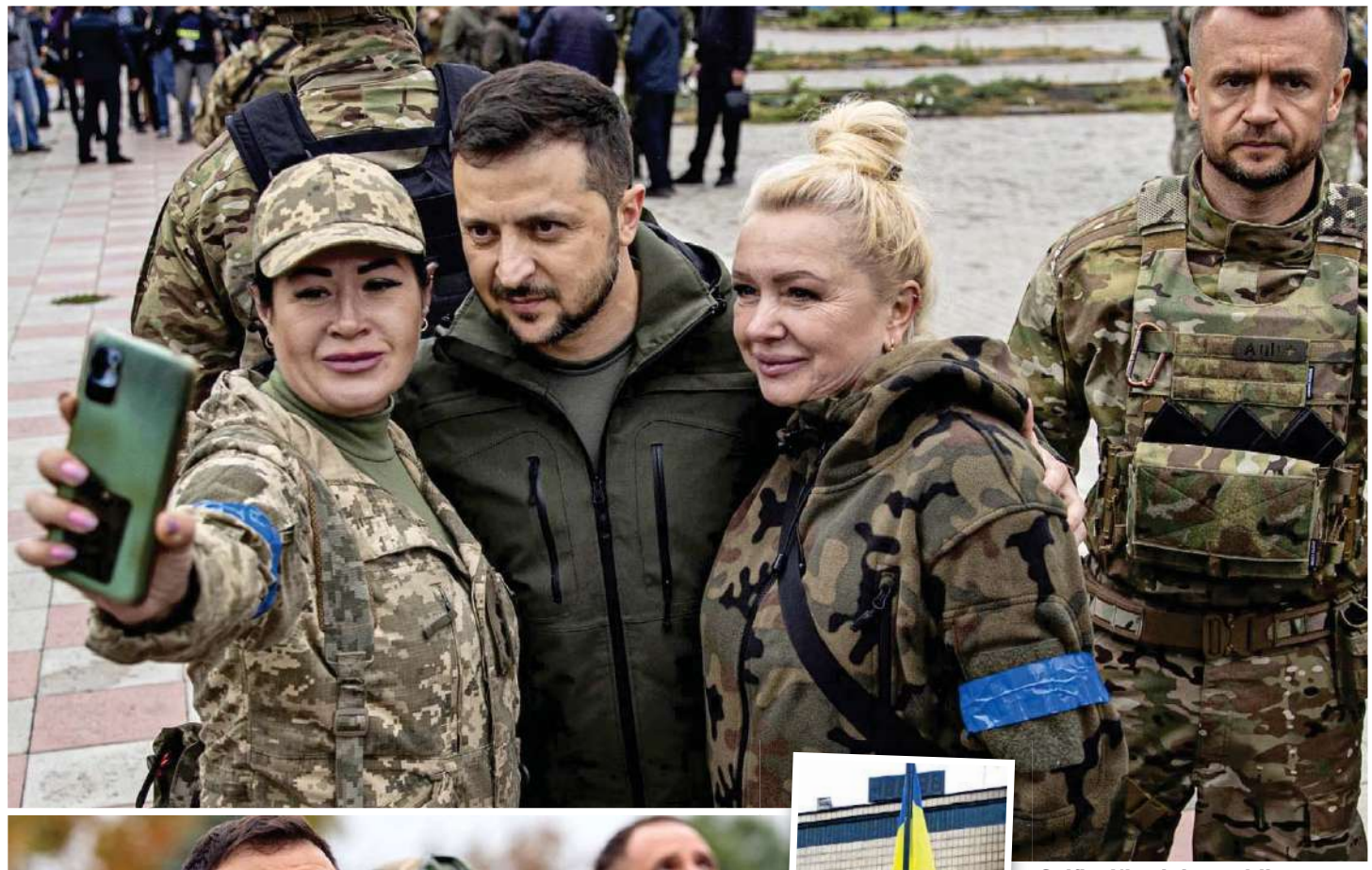
Mr Zelensky's visit is the latest embarrassment for Putin, whose troops had seized the town to use as a logistic hub for sending weapons to the nearby Donbas.

Just 10,000 of 40,000 residents remain in Izium, where blackened buildings peppered by the shrapnel of Russian shelling bear the scars of the six-month war.

'The view is very shocking, but it is not shocking for me,' Mr Zelensky said. 'Because we began to see the same pictures from Bucha, from the first de-occupied territories. The same destroyed buildings, killed people.'

Authorities discovered mass graves and evidence of war crimes in Bucha, near Kyiv, after Russian troops fled the town in March.

In recent days, Ukrainian forces have taken back control of an area the size of the Greek island of Crete. The reclaimed territory is home to 150,000 people across 300 towns and cities.



Selfie: Ukrainian soldiers get a precious photo with Volodymyr Zelensky in Izium yesterday

Emotional: Mr Zelensky as the Ukrainian flag, inset, is raised in the recaptured town

Divided EU means Putin keeps raking in gas cash

From **James Franey**

EUROCRATS last night scrapped plans to choke off funds for Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine when they ditched a proposed price cap on Russian gas.

European Commission officials had briefed last week that EU governments would back a blueprint aimed at preventing Moscow from weaponising energy supplies. But the bloc remains divided on the idea, which is backed by France and Poland, but opposed in countries such as Austria, Germany, Hungary, and Slovakia.

It forced Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen to axe the price cap in favour of a windfall tax on the profits of energy giants benefiting from higher prices that she said would raise £120billion. 'It is wrong to receive extraordinary record profits benefiting from war and on the back of consumers,' she said.

Mrs von der Leyen also said that the EU executive would prepare new proposals for wartime-style rationing of electricity. Brussels says the money raised by the windfall tax will help households and businesses across the continent struggling with inflation and surging bills.

But it raises the prospect that some EU governments will continue to funnel money into the Kremlin's coffers. The bloc has paid £78billion for Russian fossil fuels since the start of the war, say experts.

However, Russia now supplies less than 10 per cent of the EU's gas imports. Before the invasion, the figure was 40 per cent.

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Leo's OLDER model

Has DiCaprio, 47, finally set his sights on a girlfriend over 25?

Mother of one: Gigi Hadid in New York on Saturday

Spotted: Maria Beregova

By **Imogen Horton**

HE famously broke up with his previous eight girlfriends before they turned 26.

Now, however, Leonardo DiCaprio appears to have taken the unprecedented step of dating a women over the age of 25.

The 47-year-old Hollywood star was pictured deep in conversation with model Gigi Hadid, 27, at a party at the Casa Cipriani club in New York on Saturday.

They leant towards each other to talk amid the hubbub, and he was seen to put his hand on her shoulder. It comes weeks after he reportedly split from 25-year-old Camila Morrone, his girlfriend of four years, and was later spotted with Ukrainian model Maria Beregova, 22. DiCaprio has dated models Gisele Bundchen, Bar Refaeli, Toni Garrn, Erin Heatherton and Nina Agdal and actresses Blake Lively and Kelly Rohrbach. All were 25 or younger when they broke up.

Reports said DiCaprio and Miss Hadid, who has a two-year-old daughter by singer Zayn Malik, 'are getting to know each other' but 'neither want a relationship' at the moment.

Engrossed: DiCaprio and Gigi Hadid at the New York party

Picture: BACKGRID

Junk food curbs face axe to ease pressure on family budgets

By **Harriet Line**
Chief Political Correspondent

JUNK food curbs could be scrapped under plans considered by ministers to help families with the cost of living.

The Government is reviewing measures in the anti-obesity strategy, which includes a ban on sugary snacks promoted at checkouts and in 'buy one, get one free' deals.

Ministers may also look at ditching the sugar tax, which charges soft drink makers if their drinks are too sugary, and will consider ditching calorie counts on restaurant menus.

Liz Truss is leading a drive to help families facing soaring bills on everything from a weekly shop to heating homes.

The move would fulfil her vow last month to halt curbs on junk food. The then Tory leadership candidate had said she would scrap a ban on 'buy one, get one free' deals and sugar taxes.

The 'deregulatory' review is likely to lead to a raft of anti-obesity policies inherited from Boris Johnson being jettisoned, according to The Guardian.

A source told the paper: 'There doesn't seem to be any appetite from Therese [Coffey, the new Health Secretary] for nanny state stuff.' Government sources last night said they were reviewing whether the measures are 'appropriate' given the cost of living challenges facing the country.

They insisted ministers remained committed to addressing obesity and said the review was an 'internal summary' rather than a formal review.

The ban on 'buy one, get one free' deals for unhealthy foods was delayed by a year in May, after being due to come into force in October 2022.

A planned 9pm watershed on junk food advertising was also postponed, with speculation they could be ditched. But blocking unhealthy foods from being promoted in shop checkouts was still due to begin next month.

Ex-PM Mr Johnson started a crackdown in 2020 after his battle with Covid, which he said was exacerbated by being overweight. But he acknowledged the policy had 'nanny state' overtones.

Health campaign groups criticised the latest review. The Children's Food Campaign tweeted: 'Just when low-income communities urgently need support in affording healthier food this [would] create more chaos in [the] food sector and allow [the] junk food industry to deluge us again at expense of public health and our NHS.'

Carbon footprints on the menu

DINERS at a vegetarian restaurant can now choose meals based on their carbon emissions.

The Canteen in Bristol is the first in Britain to show the environmental cost of every meal on the menu.

The CO2 figure takes into account distances ingredients travelled and emissions in production. The dish with the highest carbon footprint is an £8.50 miso and harissa-flavoured aubergine with za'atar brittle, courgette baba ganoush and tabbouleh, with 674g of CO2.

The lowest is a £6 beetroot and carrot fritter with just 16g.

Marketing manager Anna Blightman said: 'The reception has been incredible and really positive.' She added: 'For reference, eating just one UK produced beefburger can generate as much as 3,050g CO2.'

A multivitamin a day could keep dementia at bay

By **Sophie Huskisson**
Health Reporter

TAKING a daily multivitamin pill could help to ward off dementia, researchers claim.

Supplements could help keep brains sharp for an extra two years, they suggested.

The researchers followed more than 2,200 participants aged 65 and older for three years, with some taking a daily multivitamin-mineral supplement and others a placebo.

They found taking supplements for three years slowed cognitive decline associated with ageing by 60 per cent – or about 1.8 years.

The authors said their research was the first large long-term study of the cognitive benefits of multivitamins for older adults.

They emphasised that more research on a bigger and more diverse scale is required, saying it was too early to recommend daily multivitamin supplementation to prevent cognitive decline.

The US study – published in Alzheimer's and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association – was run by Wake Forest University School of Medicine, North Carolina, in collaboration with Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

There are currently around 900,000 people with dementia in the UK, a number projected to rise to 1.6million by 2040, according to the Alzheimer's Society. There is currently no treatment to cure it.

Professor Laura Baker, of Wake Forest University School of Medicine, said: 'There's an urgent need for safe and affordable interventions to protect cognition against a decline in older adults. Our study showed that daily multivitamin-mineral supplementation resulted in statistically significant cognitive improvement.'

She added: 'While these preliminary findings are promising, additional research is needed in a larger and more diverse group.

'Also, we still have work to do to better understand why the multivitamin might benefit cognition in older adults.'

Dementia is not a disease but a term describing symptoms that suggest difficulties with cognitive function caused by other diseases of the brain, according to Age UK. Cognitive function – which includes recognition of faces, sounds and smells, and memory – is commonly believed to decline in older age.

'A significant improvement'

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is the stage between the expected cognitive decline of normal ageing and the more serious decline of dementia.

Some people with MCI will go on to develop dementia while others will not, meaning it can sometimes be considered an early stage of diseases such as Alzheimer's – the most common form of dementia.

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KUROSU

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2: Each row and column must contain three noughts and three crosses.

Solution on Mail Puzzles back page

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ON THIS DAY

September 15, 2022

FROM THE DAILY MAIL ARCHIVE

SEPTEMBER 15, 1980

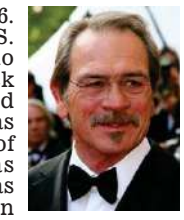
HERCULES, the TV bear who went on the run in the Hebrides, tucked into his first meal for 24 days last night. Big Softie, as he is known in the Kleenex commercials, quickly put paid to a plate of prawns and washed it down with a glass of advocaat — his favourite tipple. There was a massive search for the bear, who ran off as he and his owner, Andy Robin, were making a ten-minute film for an American firm.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1990

THE Desert Rats are returning to the Middle East to confront Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. The 7th Armoured Brigade, a powerful unit of 114 battle tanks and 6,000 troops, received its orders for Gulf duty yesterday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE, 45. The Nigerian author wrote Half Of A Yellow Sun, which was adapted into a film starring Thandiwe Newton. Part of her TED talk 'We should all be feminists' was sampled in a song by Beyonce, and in 2019 she was picked by Meghan Markle to appear on the cover of Vogue's Forces For Change issue.



TOMMY LEE JONES, 76. The Oscar-winning U.S. actor and director, who starred in Men In Black and No Country For Old Men, has been hailed as 'the modern-day face of the western' and was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2009. At Harvard, he was a freshman with the future U.S. vice president Al Gore.

BORN ON THIS DAY

PENNY SINGLETON (1908-2003). The U.S. actress is best known for playing the comic-strip character Blondie Bumstead in 28 films, and she also gave Humphrey Bogart his first screen kiss in Swing Your Lady. As a labour leader, she drove the Mafia out of her performers' union and led the Rockettes in a successful strike against Radio City Music Hall.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT (1857-1930). The 27th U.S. president once wrote that his political rise was due to the fact that he always had his 'plate the right side up when offices were falling'. After his single term, he became a law professor at Yale. Described by the New York Times as 'the only massively obese man ever to be president', he went on a diet after he reportedly got stuck in a White House bathtub.

ON SEPTEMBER 15...

Picture: REX

IN 1859, English engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel died, aged 53.

IN 1954, Marilyn Monroe shot the famous scene for The Seven Year Itch in which her skirt is blown up while she stands on a New York subway grate (right).

WORD WIZARDRY

GUESS THE DEFINITION: Foozle (c 1850s)

A) To walk alone with the head held low.
B) To bungle; to play clumsily.
C) To cheat; to deceive. *Answer below*

PHRASE EXPLAINED

Pushing up the daisies: Meaning to be dead and buried; it's an early 20th-century euphemism for being in the grave, above which daisies grow.

QUOTE FOR TODAY

'For sleep, riches, and health to be truly enjoyed, they must be interrupted.'

Jean Paul, German writer (1763-1825)

JOKE OF THE DAY

WHAT is a horse's favourite sport? *Stable tennis.*

Guess The Definition answer: B.

Compiled by ETAN SMALLMAN and ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD

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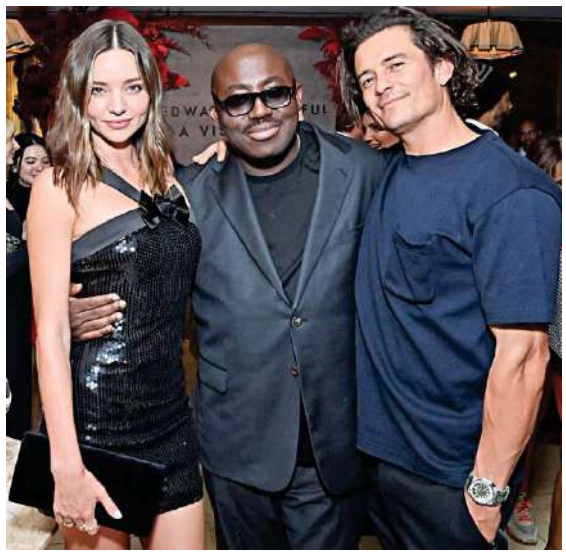
Eden

Vogue editor reunites exes

NOT only did the Duchess of Sussex agree to edit his magazine for one issue in 2019 but she, coyly, refrained from putting herself on the cover.

Now, Vogue editor Edward Enninful has managed to persuade Orlando Bloom to attend the Los Angeles launch party for his memoirs, alongside the Hollywood star's model ex-wife, Miranda Kerr.

Canterbury-born Bloom, 45, now engaged to pop superstar Katy Perry, 37, has an 11-year-old son, Flynn, with Australian Kerr, 39. She's married to billionaire Snapchat co-founder Evan Spiegel, 32.



A BILLION FAREWELLS

Why the Queen's majestic funeral will be the biggest television event of all time

EXCLUSIVELY INSIDE SATURDAY'S
Daily Mail

Fright at the Museum as rarest china is smashed

NUMBERING Lord Rothschild, several Sainsburys and other members of the stupendously rich among its benefactors, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford displays a staggering array of art and antiquities — from drawings by da Vinci to paintings by Rubens.

But today I can reveal those benefactors are reeling from an extraordinary incident which left several priceless pieces of porcelain shattered. The catastrophe occurred last Sunday, on the Ashmolean's second floor in its West Meets East Gallery, which showcases, among other treasures, irreplaceable pieces of Meissen porcelain, made in Dresden in the 18th century.

The gallery was empty when a student in his 20s looked in. Moments later, I'm told, he was treated to the sound of breaking glass and porcelain, as a shelf in a glass display case gave way.

'He'd only just walked in when he heard this hideous sound,' my Oxford mole tells me. 'He was about 20ft from where it happened. You can imagine what it was like: you're alone in a museum gallery then there's the sound of glass and china shattering.

Shattering: Oxford's Ashmolean

It's a hell of a shock. Then you have the hideous feeling that you'll be blamed for it. He felt sick.'

To his credit, the student immediately reported what had happened.

Suzanne de la Rosa, of Oxford University Gardens, Libraries and Museums, tells me six pieces of porcelain — some Royal Worcester, some Chinese — are now with the museum's conservation team 'for assessment'.

Adding that it is hoped 'some of the items will return to display', she explains that it's not known why or how the glass shelf broke away.

Assuring me that 'no visitors or staff were near the display case' at the time, De la Rosa says the Ashmolean is conducting 'a full investigation' — not least so as to 'avoid a similar incident in future'.

Perhaps the benefactors will supply some Blu Tack in the interim?

■ *THEATRE-GOERS are being warned that they could find a Shakespeare play upsetting because it features the death of a monarch. And that a rendition of the national anthem could be an emotional experience. Shakespeare's Globe in London, which is staging Henry VIII, featuring the demise of his first queen, Katherine of Aragon, says: 'This production contains scenes that audiences may find sensitive due to recent events, including a coronation, the death of a monarch and the national anthem.'*

■ *SIR Sam Mendes says the director of the next James Bond film should be a woman. 'The actor playing Bond is going to evolve, the director has to evolve,' declares the filmmaker, who took the helm for Skyfall and Spectre. 'It would be wonderful to see a woman directing Bond.' How convenient that Mendes feels so strongly about this only after he's been in charge.*

Cherie tackles ballet dilemma

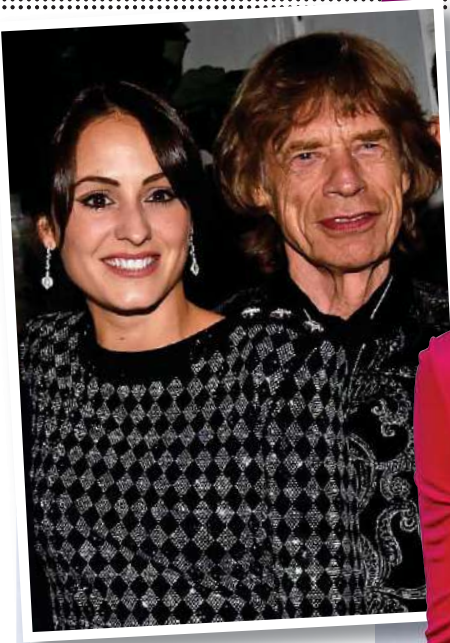
CHERIE BLAIR was once memorably pictured failing to stifle a yawn while watching the Highland Games with the Queen. Yet she insists she hasn't breached etiquette by attending a ballet during National Mourning.

Giselle was performed at the London Coliseum by the United Ukrainian Ballet for a very worthy cause, the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

'I haven't been attending events because of the Queen's death, of course, but I felt this was a special, important one,' the wife of Sir Tony Blair tells me. 'The dancers are dancing and it's so important to them and their country — the Queen would understand.'

Cherie adds: 'It's very important to highlight the richness of Ukrainian culture, particularly when President Putin doesn't seem to think Ukraine exists as a culture, or as a country.'

Confidential



SIR MICK'S SQUEEZE PENS DARK DEBUT

SIR Mick Jagger was handed a reported £1 million advance by the publisher Lord Weidenfeld in the early 1980s to write his memoirs. He later returned the money, explaining that he didn't enjoy writing it.

His girlfriend, Melanie Hamrick, has, though, managed to complete a book.

It's not an autobiography but a novel called First Position, which is due to be published next summer.

Hamrick, 35, is a former ballerina with American Ballet Theatre in New York and her book is about a young ballerina who 'begins to unravel as her star rises', according to her U.S. publisher, which adds that it's an examination of the 'insular, seductive, and cut-throat world of dance'.

Mel — who has a son, Deveraux, aged five, with the 79-year-old Rolling Stones frontman — gushes: 'So excited that my debut novel is being published.' She says the book is 'fun, seductive and a bit dark'.

Sounds a bit like the Sympathy For The Devil singer...

■ *TROUBLED Cara Delevingne is surprised she reached 30 last month. 'Honestly, I didn't think I'd be alive at this age,' she admits. The top model was recently seen sitting alone in a parked car in Los Angeles, where she took drops of liquid from a pipette and smoked from what appeared to be a pipe. Her legs appeared to be bruised. 'I literally couldn't wait to turn 30, because the 20s are f****** hard,' she tells Stylist. 'You're basically still a teenager — but you're meant to be an adult and everyone's telling you this is the best time of your life.'*

Cressie's shocking new style

PRINCE Harry's ex Cressida Bonas has said her dreams have been wilder since she got pregnant. And it would appear the same applies to her hair.

The actress, 33, who's married to estate agent Harry Wentworth-Stanley, looks like she's stuck a finger in an electricity socket in this selfie.

She's having her locks tended by stylist to the stars Jonothon Malone.

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MY GUIDE TO DATING AFTER DIVORCE
PAGES 62-63

What happened when the woman who's ALWAYS got lots to say was *banned* from *talking* for a week

Quest for tranquillity: Liz Jones

Picture: AMELIA TROUBRIDGE

by Liz Jones

THE 250-year-old Grade I-listed mansion overlooks a U-bend in the river, on the cusp of Dartmoor. The masts of sail boats float by, silently.

Apart from the calls from a pair of geese, everything is silent. No beeps from phones, no vibrations in pockets, no voices.

I am at Sharpham House with 14 strangers — three men, 11 women — for a five-day silent retreat. I've been divested of my iPhone (the housekeeper had to prise my fingers open), laptop and iPad.

I will meditate for an hour, four times a day. And I will not be able to utter a word to anyone. As someone who is known for words — and plenty of them — won't that be difficult? Why am I doing this to myself? And why now exactly?

The answer is that my life has become not really worth living. Like many anxious people, I quite enjoyed lockdown: I could sit at my laptop and not be scared of life. Since the return to normal, however, I've been plunged back into the world again — sent abroad for work, having to attend parties where, being deaf, people assume I'm stupid.

The final straw is that my rented cottage is up for sale: as a homebody, an introvert, this tipped me almost over the edge.

Meanwhile, I find myself ruled by the malevolent dictator in my pocket: my phone. I am on it for an average of four

TURN TO NEXT PAGE

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

hours and 20 minutes a day. My pick-up rate (the number of times I access emails, texts, WhatsApp and social media) is 195 times a day: the average for a teenager is 95.

I am also on my laptop for eight hours-plus a day, working, before retreating to my iPad in the bath and bed.

All of us are bombarded with bad news, all the time, whether it be an email from our energy supplier, a news website, an annoyed neighbour or ailing relative.

The moment I wake after a fitful night's sleep, my brain scrabbles for something to worry about and I grasp my phone, hoping a tiny little square message, like a polystyrene float, will contain good news, will save me. It never does.

Monitoring is exhausting. I haven't concentrated on a book or film for a decade, interrupted as they are by chatter. Being on high alert has made me more stupid than I was before: I used to read Hardy, Houellebecq, Austen. See silent double bills in the cinema. These days, cinema is torture, as I'm unable to text or talk. I self-medicate with trash TV shows such as Selling Sunset and Married At First Sight.

The constant chatter is both solipsistic and a source of terror. As my emails download, my breath becomes shallow, heart pounds. Adrenaline floods my body. My hands shake. I realise I can't go on like this. I need, as an addict needs rehab, a reboot. I need to turn myself off and on again, just like a computer.

Ruby Wax, who has openly suffered from mental health problems, swears by silent retreats. And science backs her up: a Cornell University study found noise causes a stress response, impairing our cognition (so actual noise — talk, traffic and noise from devices, emails, messages — does make us more stupid, as I'd thought).

The journal Heart found that even two minutes of silence can be more relaxing than listening to classical music, reducing blood pressure and helping blood flow in the brain. The concept of a silent retreat doesn't scare me because I spend most days alone, just talking to my collies. My only worry is being divested of my devices.

This has happened once before when I was locked inside the Celebrity Big Brother house. Even though we could talk and had alcohol (also banned at Sharpham), I would throw up each night in the bathroom, fellow contestants holding my hair back.

A few days before leaving for Dartmoor, I visit my GP. He tells me a silent retreat, with hours of meditation, can be dangerous if your brain is dependent on devices, distraction, noise. The doctor takes my blood pressure, which is very low. I have high cholesterol and my urine shows I don't eat enough and am lacking B12.

He diagnoses Complex Post Traumatic Stress, a low hum of doom, brought on by bankruptcy and losing my home. I've been told this by hypnotherapists, a psychiatrist, a neurofeedback practitioner, Reiki healers, but none has helped long-term. All of which begs the question: how can I possibly survive for five days without the internet?

Some retreats don't allow a pencil or a book but, happily, this one does. I start my retreat early, on the six-hour train ride, opening a beach read. I notice as we pull into Exeter station that every single person on the platform is staring at their phone.

When the train slides alongside the ocean, waves licking the windows, no one notices. Not even the children. And I start to wonder what we are doing to their malleable brains.

On arrival, drinking in the view, not a single other building or car in sight, was like seeing the sea for the first time as a child: wow!

My room is simple — no TV! — but the sash window frames a perfect pastoral view, unchanged in centuries. Bought by Maurice and Ruth Ash in 1962, Sharpham House and its 550 acres was turned into a charity in 1982, dedicated to helping people cope with the stresses of modern life.

The first morning — having had a nightmare — I almost blew a gasket when I was told not only would I have to share a bathroom and make my own bed but would be on washing-up duty.

I'm given a pair of Crocs to wear. The ignominy! But it's all about being humble, which makes me wonder how the movie star here the week before coped. I missed the wake-up bell at 7am, as I take my hearing aids out at night. I'd been given an alarm clock, but can no longer work out how to set it. I go to Google it. Gah!

I'm given a pair of Crocs to wear. The ignominy!

I look out over the lawn, where my fellow retreatants are performing mindful movement, which is optional. A lone woman sits gazing at the river, holding a flower: no phone, no book, as rare as a snow leopard.

Before breakfast at 8am is meditation. I sit on the floor, trying to cross my legs, only to find my body is as uncooperative as a deckchair.

Our teacher, Jo — the sort of woman you expect to find at Glastonbury, with an unmade-up face and floaty clothes — offers me a chair, saying it doesn't matter how I sit: just keep two feet flat on the floor, to ground me.

I close my eyes but can't stop thoughts from spiralling. I start writing this piece in my head. I replay an argument. Jo says that, if you notice your thoughts wandering, inevitably drawn by your 'negativity bias', bring them back by simply experiencing the feel of your feet on the ground, even for a few seconds.

At breakfast, desperate for coffee, I exclaim aloud: 'But they've only got instant!' Jo puts her fingers to her lips. Shhhhhhhh!

Even the chefs in the kitchen are not talking. Plates are lifted carefully to avoid clattering.

I sit on the terrace with my porridge and take in the view. I can't remember the last time I ate a meal without mindless chatter or the telly. No one tastes food any more.

Jo calls what we are doing a 'companionable silence': it's not about being aloof or closed off, as we are allowed to smile and to gently touch a shoulder.

As each person takes a tray, some food and a glass of water (the first time I've drunk tap water since 1983), in a solitary bubble of silence, I feel connected to them in a way I haven't felt close to anyone, not even a boyfriend or husband, ever.

No one is showing off. There is nothing to prove. Someone squeezes my shoulder and I feel close to tears.

When we're finally allowed to talk the noise is unbearable

Normally, I hate being touched: I feel judged, think a man is feeling my spare tyre, or examining my grey roots. Here, for some reason, looks, status no longer matter.

After a buffet lunch, we are encouraged to take a guided walk (I'm too scared to venture out on my own, given no phone), the silence broken only by gasps when a seal or kingfisher is spotted.

It feels strange to see beauty and not take its photo: it shall remain a memory instead. My favourite place is the walled vegetable garden with its outdoor pool I'm too self-conscious to climb into.

Jo has told me, on day one, that with my challenges of extreme anxiety I should use the meditation sessions to rest. Such an old-fashioned, underused word: rest. I haven't done that for years.

I feel I don't deserve kindness or happiness, that I merely have to survive. But Meghan was right: we need to thrive, or what's the point?

By day two I am on my third book: Tess Of The D'Urbervilles. One passage stands out: 'There was another date… that of her own death; a day which lay sly and unseen among all the other days of the year, giving no sign or sound when she annually passed over it; but not the less surely there. When was it?'

It's so ungrateful: not to enjoy life.

By day five, I've become institutionalised. I feel safe, not having to constantly check where my phone is. I no longer care. Of course, it's easy to feel relaxed when all you must do is look at the river, wave idly at canoeists.

The cost of the retreat is modest — full board is £450 for three nights, though I gate-crashed for four — but unattainable for many.

I'm told people in financial difficulty can apply to stay on a bursary: few are turned away.

And if you can't spare the time, there are online courses once a month, and free group meditation online at 7pm every Tuesday (Sharpham offers free courses for NHS staff in Devon).

Even a few moments of meditation can help keep you calm. Technology can help, too. Download a screen-saver that says, 'Turn your phone

Picture: COURTESY OF SHARPHAM TRUST RETREATS

By day 5 I've become institutionalised. I'm turning into a nun, a life I've always envied

Picture: ALISTAIR HEAP

Silence is golden: Peace and quiet at Sharpham House and, inset, Liz Jones meditates in its grounds

off', or an app called Siempo which ensures you are only alerted to messages once or twice a day.

My mum, always on the go with seven children, used to knit each evening. Whatever you choose, it's about not being distracted, diluted.

At breakfast on the last morning, when we are given permission to talk, the noise is almost unbearable: I miss the quiet contemplation. I'm slowly turning into a nun, a life I've always envied: order, routine, never having to go out in the world.

There is a final meeting for us to share what we've learned. We meet in an octagonal room, my heart is racing; my mouth dry.

A ball of (local, cruelty-free) wool is tossed between us. After each person has spoken, they hold on to the thread, tossing the ball to the next, forming a web of connectivity.

One woman is a primary school teacher, here to escape the constant chatter of children. Another has long Covid: a mum, wife and daughter, she's finding it hard to be the person needing care. Another is about to move abroad and needs a full stop.

A man says that everyone around him has 'stolen my power'. A beautiful young woman, who you would think has no problems at all, says: 'This is such a magical place. I haven't been anywhere magical for years.'

Even Jo, so sorted, has found a way of living with her own neuro-diversity. Being in a group reminds me that I'm not unique in having problems.

The ball is tossed to me but, of course, I miss it. It unravels under a chair. 'I feel like a kitten!' I laugh, scooting after it.

Who knew I could laugh after the travails — divorce, family betrayal, sacking, bankruptcy, bereavement — of the last decade? Who knew that wellness — that much-derided fad beloved of the Gwyneth Paltrows of this world — would actually work? Who knew that by this point I would be putting my right hand on my heart and whispering to myself: 'I'm not a machine, I'm a mammal'?

> *I'm reluctant to leave the safe cocoon of the retreat*

I am ready to say my piece. That I always felt mindfulness to be self-indulgent narcissism. That people who meditate are lazy.

Today, I realise that having a few calmer, kinder people in the world can only be a good thing.

Before, I felt I controlled the world. Now? I see that technology has enslaved me. I realise I matter, in that I don't deserve to be scared all the time.

I also realise, perversely, that I don't matter, because the world has gone on without me in it. I'm a speck on a small blue dot. No one will mind if I'm happy.

I'm reluctant to leave the cocoon of the retreat where I'm safe in my 'window of tolerance'. I beg to stay one more night, which means I'm alone in the huge house with my thoughts. I worry I might go mad. I think of Virginia Woolf, who threw herself in a river.

But the techniques I've learned — to stroke my arm, as though it were a puppy, to hug myself, to rest — protect me like an umbrella.

I've promised not to open my phone until I'm on the train. Eventually, I open 685 unexploded bombs. Mostly rubbish. A few are annoying: a viewing at my rented cottage, which might mean I'll have to move, again.

My bank thinks I'm dead. I remember the advice: don't reply straight away. If someone asks you to do something you don't want to do, say you need time to think about it. If someone wants to argue, be silent. Walk away.

Before leaving, I was told to make a list of what I need to be happy. I think of the one on my computer at home: 'Daylesford wine glass. Vispring bed. Square pillows.' Today, I've written one word as I watch the waves slide past: 'Peace.'

I'm going back to see my doctor later this week, to see if anything physiological has changed.

But I already know I'm different. On my first night home I run a bath and, instead of sitting in it holding my phone, I'm reading the new issue of Vogue. And I don't even care if I get the pages wet.

■ *sharphamtrust.org/retreats*

PODCAST PICK

THE BEST AUDIO SHOW TO LISTEN TO NOW

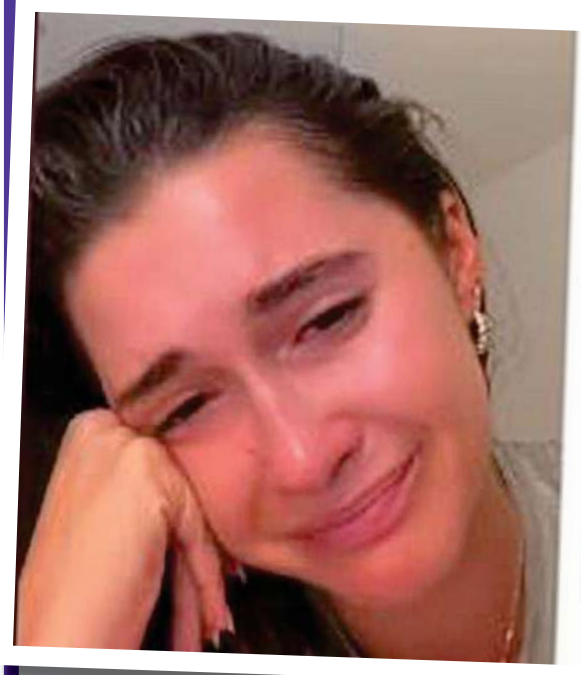
THE HISTORY CHICKS

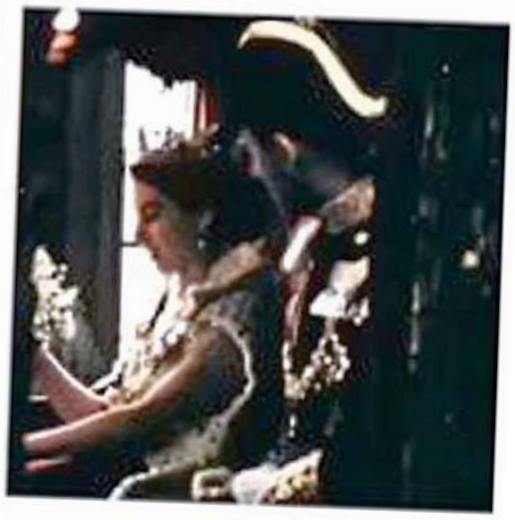
GET back in the classroom with this myth-busting, truth-exposing history lesson and discover the life of notable females — from the well-known (think Elizabeth Taylor and Pocahontas) to the more obscure (Empress Sisi of Austria, anyone?). But this isn't anything you'd find in a textbook: witty comparisons with modern-day celebrities make this a totally relatable, easily digestible education that'll have you asking for extra homework.

■ *https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-history-chicks*

How could so many of my *generation...* mock me for *mourning* the Queen?

by TikTok star Chiara King, 23





Duet: Chiara's split-screen video featured her reaction to footage of the Queen, right

A WEEK ago, like the rest of the nation, I watched with horror as the TV screen went a solemn black and the moment we'd all been dreading finally came to pass. My phone began to ping as friends and family responded to news of the Queen's death with grief-stricken messages.

In the emotion of the moment, I decided to do what my generation so often does: I turned to social media, where I posted an honest, tearful and utterly heartfelt tribute to our monarch.

Little did I realise that within hours my phone would be alight with thousands more messages — these ones dripping with vitriol directed at me by strangers, purely because of that tribute to our former Queen. A large part of my generation, it seems, has reacted to the nation's grief, online at least, with a callous ignorance that makes me genuinely ashamed.

I had been honestly distraught that I would never see the Queen's smile again, and it felt natural to express that on social media. TikTok — an app that allows you to create and share short videos — is the obvious platform for someone my age.

As a musician and actress, I've steadily amassed 3.2 million followers there (and another 740,000 on Instagram) since singing for Simon Cowell on The X Factor: The Band in 2019, while studying for my degree at King's College London.

I created what's known as a 'duet', where a video plays on one side of the screen and your reaction to it on the other. It might sound odd to older generations, but for mine — at 23, I'm at the upper end of Gen Z — it's a completely normal, acceptable way to share your feelings.

'You can be "cancelled" in a heartbeat for transgressions'

The video I picked to honour the Queen switched between her joyful Paddington skit for the Jubilee and footage of her looking young and radiant at her coronation 70 years earlier.

On my side of the split screen was footage of me weeping to the camera — my face red and swollen from crying — deeply moved by what we had lost. Laid over the top of it all, I'd written my own words in tribute, recognising the many millions of people whose hearts have been touched by Queen Elizabeth over her 70-year reign, and feeling thankful that at least she would be at peace with her beloved Philip.

Nothing prepared me for what would happen next. With millions of followers all over the world, it's not as if I'm not used to abuse. Gen Z has a horrible habit of pouncing on its own for transgressions that can get you 'cancelled' in a heartbeat — misgendering; cultural appropriation; fakery; not checking your privilege — and even though most of my posts are innocuous bits of fun about dating and travelling, I've had mean comments under plenty of them.

I'm well aware that internet pile-ons — where thousands of people post angry comments on someone's social media account, encouraging others to do the same — happen all the time.

I suppose it was inevitable I would eventually be the victim of one myself, yet I never imagined that mourning the death of a 96-year-old woman — a mother, grandmother and great grandmother who was loved by her family as well as the nation she devotedly served — would be what prompted people to turn on me. I posted my tribute at 9pm, and within a minute my phone had blown up with notifications telling me I'd had hundreds of comments — the majority saying things that made me feel ashamed of my own generation: that they hoped the Queen's death had been painful and she had gone to hell.

Some were so awful that I started to delete them, blocking those who had posted them, which I've never had to do before.

Some ranted about colonialism — as though Queen Elizabeth was personally responsible for the reach of the former British Empire — others accused her of murdering Princess Diana and stealing from people all over the world.

My generation wasn't even born when she died, and most of what we know about modern royalty comes from watching The Crown on Netflix, in which the Queen and Prince Charles come across particularly badly.

I'm stunned by how many think it's a documentary instead of a drama with a very loose grip on real history.

I've always known my generation is divided about the monarchy — in a YouGov poll ahead of the Platinum Jubilee, only 56 per cent of 18-24 year-olds said they thought the Queen had personally done a good job during her time on the throne, compared to 94 per cent of over-65s.

Republicans peacefully protesting their unhappiness at the fact we have a monarchy at all, by holding up 'Not my King' placards or blank pieces of paper as has happened in Scotland this week, is one thing. But using your keyboard to facelessly tear someone apart in the Wild West that is the online world, and encouraging others to do the same, is of a different order of cruelty altogether.

Whenever it happens, it's fuelled by the fake and unregulated news and conspiracy theories that get posted online, which my generation is quick to believe and slow to fact-check.

Along with a pack mentality that allows hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people to shout with what feels like one voice.

Some comments were about Prince Andrew. I understand why people feel angry about that, but I can also imagine motherly instincts will always rule your head, even if a crown sits on top of it.

There were accusations of racism too, based on Meghan Markle's comments since stepping away from the Royal family. Again, I understand where they're coming from — she's so much more relatable to my generation of young women than any other royal.

'I was shocked by hypocrisy of those who claim to be so angry'

But I was still shocked by the hypocrisy of those who claim to be so angry about how she was supposedly treated, yet had no qualms about telling me how pathetic I was for sharing *my* own feelings.

I couldn't believe I was being abused by the same generation I'd hoped my tribute would offer some comfort to; people who, like me, saw our queen as the nation's granny and felt bereft that she'd gone.

On a personal level, the Queen's death felt especially poignant because my grandfather — who has idolised her since serving her father as a teenage soldier during World War II — is the same age and similarly poorly with the frailties of old age.

I read the online bile with my head in my hands, glad that Grandad would never have to see what had been written.

A week on, and a million people have viewed my post from the United Kingdom to the United States — there are still a couple of thousand comments underneath it, although I've stopped reading them now. I can't put myself through any more.

I already know I'll be incredibly upset when I watch the funeral on Monday, but I won't be sharing any of my emotions online.

I'm too scared of what the pack of animals who prowl social media as their hunting ground, looking for people to tear apart, might say next.

As told to RACHEL HALLIWELL

Jenni Murray

Her Majesty did more for women than bra-binning feminists

EACH morning as I descend the stairs from my bedroom to the kitchen, I pass my proudest possession — a framed certificate confirming my appointment as a Dame of the British Empire, signed, in July 2011, Elizabeth R.

It's a daily reminder of the woman I doubt would ever have used the word 'feminist' to describe herself — she was never publicly outspoken on any political point — but who nevertheless changed British women's lives for ever.

My mother was the Queen's contemporary, raised to follow the limited expectations available to women in the immediate post-war period. She was a civil servant and loved her job, but, when, in 1949, she married my father, she had to give up her career.

As a married woman, soon pregnant and giving birth to me in 1950, her duty was to her husband, her child and taking care of their home. No choice.

When I was three years old, watching the Queen's coronation on television in the crowded sitting room of our council house, my future was as strictly planned as my mother's had been. Maybe I could train to be a teacher or nurse, but then I would marry, have children and my working life outside the home would be over.

I believe it was the Queen's example, as a mother and Head of State, that changed my — and many other women's — lives.

We often underestimate how much influence the Queen had on the women's liberation movement. She never wore a mini skirt, or appeared without her bra and I don't think her hairstyle changed in 70 years in the public eye. Comfy tweeds and a headscarf were more her style but, by example, she began to change how girls and women viewed themselves.

I recall my mother being impressed but slightly shocked that Princess Elizabeth had joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in the war. She learned to drive and became a competent mechanic.

My mother had wanted to join the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force). Her mother wouldn't let her. She didn't learn to drive until I persuaded her it was essential, when I was 15. My grandmother was clearly in Queen Victoria's camp when it came to women's rights: feminists 'ought to get a good whipping' and a woman's role was to be 'a helpmate for a man'.

The Queen's pleasure behind the wheel must have staggered Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah. He was driven around Balmoral by Her Majesty in 2003 when women in his own country were not allowed to drive at all.

I know Her Majesty was aware of how feminism developed and championed greater fairness and equality throughout her reign. We never discussed Equal Pay or Sex Discrimination but I know she was a fervent fan of Woman's Hour, where all these issues featured.

When she opened the refurbished BBC Broadcasting House in 2013, she insisted upon visiting the Woman's Hour studio. Earlier on making me a Dame, she had said she was sorry the broadcast had moved from 2pm to the morning. She often had to miss it as her mornings were so busy.

At the age of just 25, the Queen had unexpectedly found herself on the throne after her father's untimely death. She was married and had two young children, but just got on with the job, insisting the family would keep her name, Windsor, and not her husband's.

Prince Philip complained he was 'the only man in the country not allowed to give his own name to his children'. The Queen set the precedent for my generation: we began calling ourselves Ms, not Miss or Mrs, denoting our status as married or not. It became more common for a woman and her children to keep her family name.

I have no doubt she and her sister, Princess Margaret, changed my own mother's old-fashioned attitude to divorce.

When my first marriage began to go horribly wrong in the late-1970s, I didn't dare suggest to my mother that divorce might be on the cards. Her view was that marriage vows were sacrosanct, and a woman must stay no matter what.

Then, in 1978, the Queen allowed her sister to divorce Antony Armstrong-Jones. Suddenly, in my mother's eyes, it was OK. My divorce went ahead with no disapproval from her.

It's also thanks to the Queen that the line of succession to the throne is no longer dominated by male royal children, after she signed off the Succession to the Crown Act in 2013.

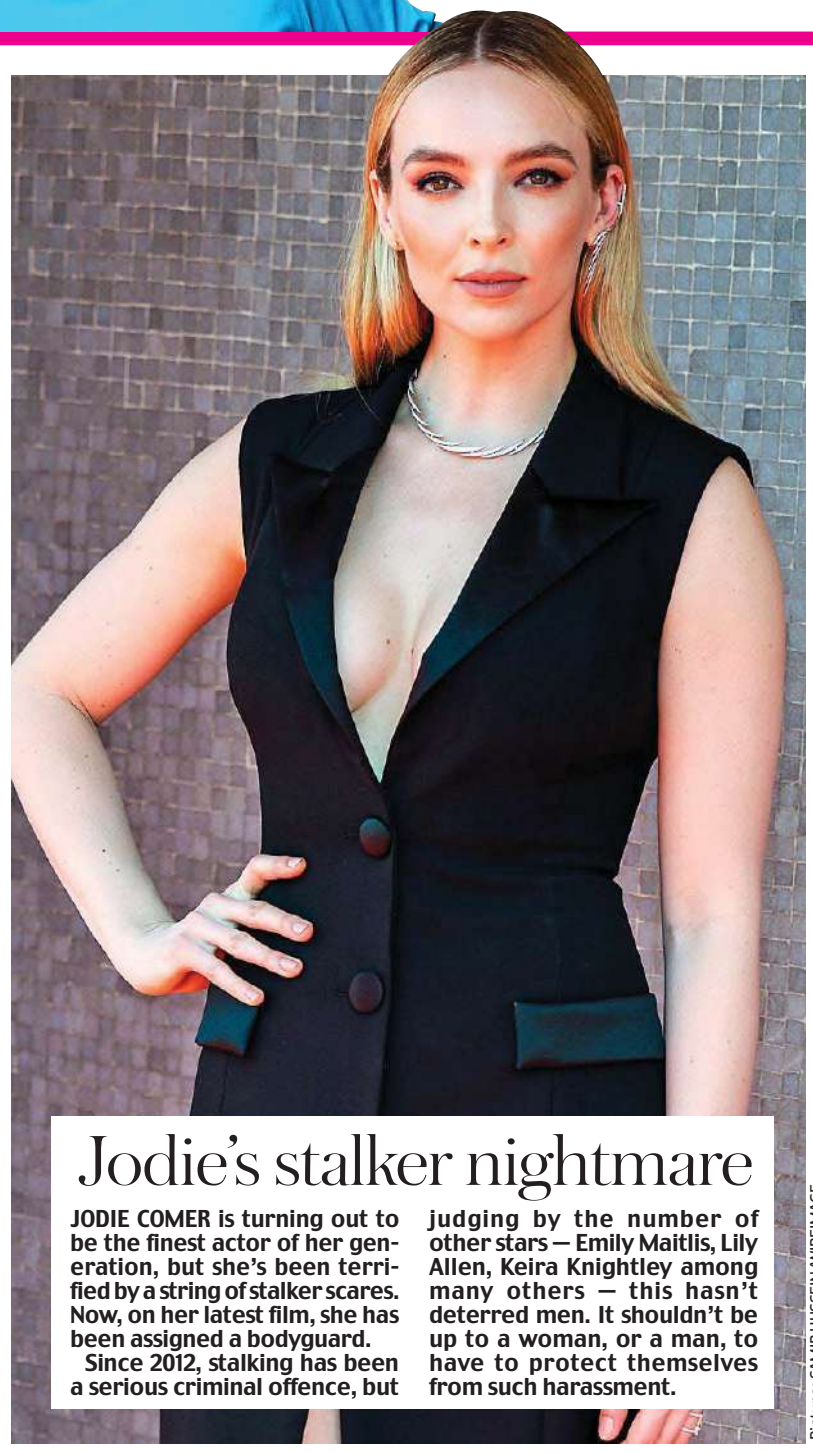
The latest list reads 1. The Prince of Wales; 2. Prince George of Wales; 3. Princess Charlotte of Wales; 4. Prince Louis of Wales. It's no longer necessary to have a second son as 'the spare'. A girl has an equal right to succeed.

For my generation of women, the most vital example Her Majesty gave us was her determination, as a married woman with four children, to lead — to be a mother and a hard worker with a job to do.

She had power, but she gave us power, too. It became possible and respectable to have it all, for which I and millions of others like me will always thank her.

Follow: @whjm

■ *SO MUCH has been put on the back burner due to Covid and strikes, but I was horrified to read about the domestic violence victims living in fear while facing court delays of up to three years. An abuser on bail is a severe risk for women, with the charity Victim Support reporting attackers breaking restraining orders or being free to date other women, even though they have a history of violence. This cannot go on. Women and their children deserve better than this.*



Picture: SAMIR HUSSEIN/WIREIMAGE

Jodie's stalker nightmare

JODIE COMER is turning out to be the finest actor of her generation, but she's been terrified by a string of stalker scares. Now, on her latest film, she has been assigned a bodyguard.

Since 2012, stalking has been a serious criminal offence, but judging by the number of other stars — Emily Maitlis, Lily Allen, Keira Knightley among many others — this hasn't deterred men. It shouldn't be up to a woman, or a man, to have to protect themselves from such harassment.

Hardest decision a mother can make

I PICKED up my returning Ukrainian guests Zoriana and Ustym at Luton airport on September 1, a day before Ustym's 18th birthday.

At that age, since the war began, young men are not allowed to leave the country and could be asked to fight.

We went out for a celebratory dinner the next day. He smiled, but was not a happy young man.

Zoriana, mad with worry, insisted we find him a university place. What could he study? She settled for IT or International Relations at Middlesex.

Ustym had nothing to say on the matter. When his mother went out later, I asked what did *he* want?

He wanted to take up his place at Lviv University to study medicine and stay with friends in a flat there. It's a four-and-a-half-year course. He can't be called up as a student.

I told Zoriana this and said I thought he should make his own choice, otherwise he would come to resent her.

The next day she booked flights. And today, my honorary grandson, Ustym Zvir, begins his studies to become a doctor. I'm proud of him — and of Zoriana.

I'll never give up salmon

I HAVE a favourite lunch which I buy at a brilliant local deli. It's a bagel with smoked salmon and cream cheese. Then I read the warnings this week of the dangers of ready-to-eat smoked fish to children, pregnant women and the over-65s. Listeriosis is the potential problem which can make you very sick indeed. I've eaten smoked salmon for 50 years and I'm still here. Can I, will I give up? No!

by Kitty Dimbleby

STANDING by the bedroom door, I paused, listening to the murmuring of my twins' voices. Inside, I found chaos: my son's desk was pulled into the middle of the room while my daughter stood behind it with rows of soft toys lined up in front.

Nine-year-old Chloe was clearly teacher, while six-year-old Max was — along with the teddies — one of her students. They turned to face me; two pairs of green eyes looking slightly guilty, their blonde hair framing their faces, identical wide cheeky grins…

No, my children are not twins in the conventional sense — there is a three-year age gap between them. But they are most definitely twins to me.

Chloe and Max were conceived at exactly the same time — in an IVF clinic on an inauspicious industrial estate just outside Bath. That day in early 2012, my eggs were collected while I was sedated and, by the miracle of modern science, fertilised with my husband's sperm in the laboratory. Five days later, we were told we had two viable blastocysts, which is the stage before the cells become an embryo. The staff at Care Fertility Bath implanted our little girl into my womb, while our little boy went into their freezer. For three years.

As IVF techniques improve, more and more families today comprise a set of so-called IVF twins like mine — children born of two eggs fertilised by two sperm at the same time, making them fraternal, or non-identical, twins, but born many years apart. It's a result in large part of the soaring rates of frozen embryo — or blastocyst — transfer.

Typically today, a woman will have a single fresh embryo transferred to her womb, and any additional embryos stored for use later at a temperature of -321f. This ensures no biological ageing takes place.

Now, as the technology becomes more routine, thousands of women are returning for those additional embryos —Frosties as they are known in the IVF community.

Frozen transfers increased by 86 per cent from 2014-2019, and today 41 per cent of all IVF cycles are attempted with frozen as opposed to fresh embryos, according to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. The rates of success are increasing, too, with 30 per cent of all frozen embryos transferred to women under the age of 35 resulting in a live birth in 2019, up ten per cent in a decade.

And as these new-shaped families emerge, parents are discovering something rather strange. Despite the age gap, their 'IVF twins', they say, have a deep and special bond that goes beyond that of mere siblings.

Gemma Jones, 34, from Monmouth, South Wales, who is the mother of fraternal twin girls, now aged three and one, from the same batch of 11 blastocysts, tells me: 'They look alike, but it's more than that — they're so similar in every way. They're on the same track developmentally: three-year-old Lucy crawled at eight months and so did Emily. They are both very social around other children but shy with adults.

'I always tell people they're "scientific twins" and I like thinking of them having that bond, a special story. There is something so unique about IVF siblings conceived at the same time. They have something in common that others don't — an extra connection.'

Over and over again, a similar story emerges. Some mothers of IVF twins even say one feels unwell and gets symptoms when the other is poorly.

I believe to my core that the bond shared by my children comes from their unique start in life. Max and Chloe insist on sharing a bedroom, for example, even though they each have their own, and in fact now struggle to sleep if, unusually, they are apart for a night.

They play together as if they were the same age; sometimes more maturely and calmly if Chloe is in charge, more immaturely and robustly if Max is leading the way.

Max, who like most little boys doesn't enjoy sitting still, will draw for hours if his sister is by his side drawing with him. They play together imaginatively, creating fantastical worlds for their toys or themselves.

I have friends with 'traditional' fraternal twins, and I see their relationship mirrored by my two — a certain deeper closeness which I am convinced comes from being created at the same time.

David Walker, obstetrician, gynaecologist, fertility specialist and medical director at Care Fertility Bath, says there's no scientific evidence for this feeling shared by parents of IVF twins born years apart.

And yet, he adds: 'In my 25 years as a consultant, I have met countless parents who have given me plenty of anecdotal evidence that they really believe this is the case, that their IVF "twins" [with an age gap] are more alike than "normal" siblings.

'There is a certain magic attached to IVF children,' he continues, 'and the "twin" story adds to the fairytale.'

Louise Bowman, 43, is co-head of family services for The Twins Trust and lives in Ashford, Surrey. Her family comprises daughters Daisy, 12, and Scarlett and Connie, both eight — all three of whom came from the same batch of embryos, created at the same time.

'People will say to me: "Aren't Daisy and Scarlett alike!" and I can see what they mean. All three of my girls have blonde hair like me, yet Daisy and Scarlett have the same shaped face and look very similar. But it's Connie who's technically Scarlett's birth twin and it was pure chance that Daisy was born first. I sometimes wonder how the dynamics would be different if Connie had been born first,' she says.

She and her husband Steven, an electrician, embarked on IVF 13 years ago, after trying for children for two years. One round of treatment created five healthy embryos and two were then implanted.

Sadly, however, only one survived — and that became Daisy. 'Three years later, Steven and I decided to try again, using the frozen embyros and while one had degraded in the freezer, the other two were healthy — they were implanted on the second go. I thought only one would survive again, but at around six weeks I had a scan and was told that yes, both babies had taken.

'I often think how crazy it is that it's down to the random choice of the clinic and what embryos they used that Daisy and Scarlett are not the twins or Daisy and Connie.' Indeed, the birth order of her children — and their very ages — were decided by doctors in a lab.

'You might imagine that it's Daisy who feels left out of things but in fact, it's often Daisy and Scarlett who get on better and Connie is the outsider. But Scarlett and Connie are very close, too, and all three of them together are a force of nature. One strong unit of girls.

'I never refer to Connie and Scarlett as "twins". To me, all three of my daughters are simply "the girls".

'It's important to us that they are allowed to be individuals and we'll try to give each of them time away from each other.

'Interestingly, Daisy is dyslexic although she's doing really well now at school. We think Connie might also be dyslexic so she's going through diagnosis now. But the other day Scarlett was crying because she felt left out because she wasn't dyslexic. You can't win!'

My two, Max and Chloe, have always been on a par developmentally — walking the week they turned one, saying 'Dada' as their first word at the same age.

> *Max's nickname is Olaf, after the snowman in Frozen*

Both are ambidextrous. Chloe is dyslexic (quite severely), and early signs indicate Max is as well, though this can't be confirmed until he is older. Despite that challenge they both love school and have the same favourite subjects: art and science.

Teachers remark on their creativity and team spirit. If one of them wants to do something, anything from rock-climbing to writing a story, the other will soon join in too.

Jess Morley, 31, a former nanny who lives in Bedfordshire with partner Paul Perry, 33, had son Kobi four years ago, and then returned for one of her three frozen blastocysts in 2020. Baby Jax was born ten months ago.

'I'd had three ectopic pregnancies before IVF and my fallopian tubes had been removed so I knew I'd never be able to conceive naturally,' she says.

'But it meant I was referred straight away for a free round of IVF and I'm thankful that at least we knew what the problem was. So many couples never find out. I actually think of them as my "miracle twins".

'We obtained four good-quality blastocysts from our first and only egg collection. We implanted one five years ago, which became Kobi, and froze the other three, one of which — the best quality one — became Jax. I'm incredibly lucky that both rounds were successful on the first attempt.

'Do they have a closer bond than normal brothers? Certainly Kobi adores Jax and vice versa. Kobi cuddles and kisses his baby brother saying, "Hello darling", which is cute. He can't wait for him to be bigger so

The Girls Who Disappeared
by Claire Douglas

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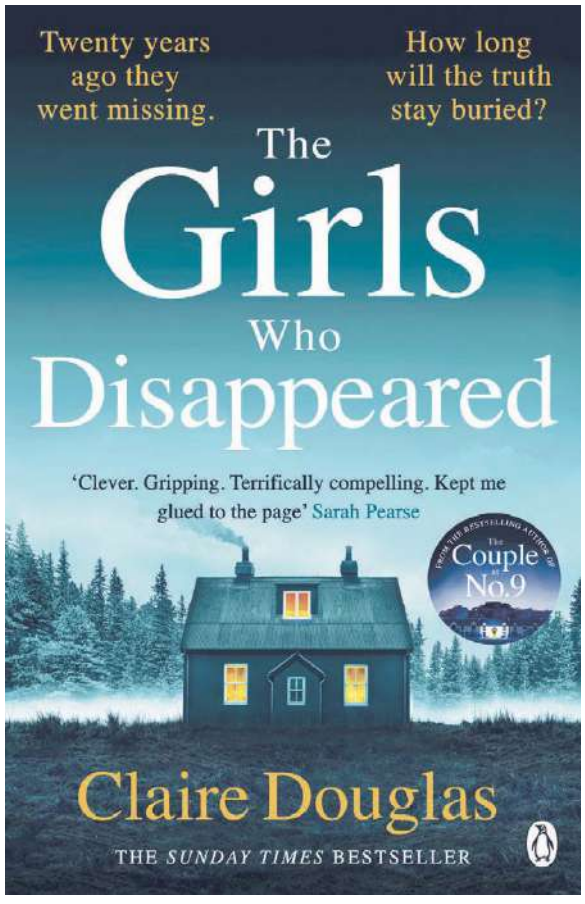

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Special bond: Max and Chloe. Above, Jax and Kobi

Meet the new generation of twins...

born years apart but still so eerily similar

Picture: LEZLI + ROSE/JUDE EDGINTON

that he can actually play with him properly and not just knock all his toys over.'

Pedants will argue that twins are only twins if they share a womb. But most IVF parents in the same situation as us love the 'twin' fairytale, not least because it gives a bit of magic to the otherwise very scientific, unromantic story of our children's beginning. The children also adore it.

I was born with Hirschsprung's disease, a disorder of the abdomen that occurs when part or all the large intestine has no nerves and so cannot function, and which left me in effect with blocked fallopian tubes.

We started the gruelling process of IVF in December 2011. Intense hope makes the seven-week process very stressful, yet in late January 2012 two of my eggs were fertilised and made it to day five — blastocyst stage — which is the optimum time to transfer into the womb.

The goal of IVF nowadays is one healthy birth. Gone are the days of multiple IVF births because they're too risky for mother and babies. Chloe was chosen; the blastocysts are graded before implantation and she had an AA grade while Max was an AB. His cells under the microscope were a fraction more irregular than hers.

I found pregnancy hard, and the birth itself, by emergency Caesarean, a frightening ordeal — but I was a mother at last with a perfect, tiny, baby girl.

I thought I would stop at one, but I couldn't get that Frostie out of my mind. It was a precious spark of life waiting for a chance to grow. Successful frozen transfer rates (those that survive the defrosting process and go on to become pregnancies) at Care Fertility Bath were then in the region of 31 per cent.

But we had to try. Having witnessed the development of my little girl, I knew now what that Frostie could become.

We were beyond lucky, and, after another difficult pregnancy, Max was born in December 2015. We had beaten the odds to become a family of four.

Just as I did, Gemma has pangs when she thinks of her remaining Frosties. 'I don't think we want any more children, but I still find it hard to think of those potential siblings. I often wonder what they'd be like... would they look like my girls?'

My husband and I have always been open with our children about their origins. Explaining IVF to young children is almost easier than explaining the natural route. Max isn't bothered at the idea he started life in a freezer, enjoying his occasional nickname Olaf after the snowman in Frozen. But Chloe, who loves science, is fascinated, and thinks her and Max's story is much more interesting than that of most of her friends.

They both love introducing the other as 'my twin', enjoying the confusion it creates before Chloe proudly explains why.

I remain always in awe of the science which enabled the creation of our family.

They say that twins are miracles that come in pairs — and my darling 'twins' born three years apart remind me every day that scientific knowledge is itself miraculous.

Additional reporting : JILL FOSTER

INSTAGLAM

POPPY DELEVINGNE

WE PICK the best dressed celebs on Instagram and show you how they do it...

Jacket, £87.20, **warehouse fashion.com**

Bag, £29.50, **marks and spencer.com**

Trousers, £52, **warehouse fashion.com**

Shoes, £30, **schuh.co.uk**

Sunglasses, £13.50, **debenhams.com**

TILLY CLARKE

A problem shared

By mother-of-four and GP Clare Bailey

Will losing weight really stop me getting cancer?

Q MY MOTHER died of breast cancer in her early 60s. I've heard that carrying excess weight increases your risk of getting cancer. Now 52, I'm developing a bit of a middle-aged spread myself — much like my mum who was overweight from her 40s.

I know weight loss has well-known benefits for the heart and knees, plus it can even reverse diabetes (at my health check the only thing flagged up was my weight). But if I do manage to lose a few pounds, could this shield me from cancer, too?

A IT'S GREAT that you're thinking about your health and how to avoid the chronic illnesses which come with carrying too much weight. But as you say in your letter, you are concerned about your increased risk of getting cancer and wondering if slimming can protect you.

According to Cancer Research UK, being significantly overweight (ie with a BMI of 30 and over) is the leading cause of cancer in the UK, after smoking. It's responsible for at least 18,000 cancers every year in the UK.

Fat, particularly round the tummy, sends out signals to the rest of the body, helping to control all sorts of bodily processes including your metabolism and your reproductive cycle. It also seems to encourage the growth of cancers, particularly of the breast, womb, bowel, liver and prostate.

Firstly, there's the impact of excess body fat on your oestrogen levels. Normally these start to decline after the menopause, but when women are very overweight their fat cells start cranking out excess oestrogen.

This may sound like a good thing, but if you have higher levels of the hormone it encourages more cell growth and, in turn, can encourage more cancer cells.

Being significantly overweight also makes your body overproduce another hormone, insulin, which helps to control your blood sugars. This also seems to promote the growth of cancer cells.

Finally, excess fat leads to the release of proteins called cytokines, which then cause chronic inflammation. We know that chronic inflammation is behind many of the conditions we associate with ageing, including heart disease and dementia, as well as cancer.

So if carrying too much weight can increase your risk of breast cancer, does losing weight make much difference? Yes, it does.

Research from the Vascular and Thoracic Institute at the Cleveland Clinic in the U.S. has demonstrated the benefit weight-loss surgery can have when it comes to reducing cancer risk.

Researchers followed 30,000 adults with obesity for a decade. Those who underwent weight-loss surgery had a 32 per cent lower risk of developing cancer and an astonishing 48 per cent lower risk of dying from the disease, compared with a similar group who did not have the surgery. The more weight they lost, the more their cancer risk fell.

You don't have to do something as drastic as having surgery. But losing 5-10 per cent of your body weight can make a big difference to breast cancer risk.

■ *MIGRAINE headaches can be miserable, and it is sometimes tempting to try lesser-known treatments such as daith piercing to relieve the pain. This involves inserting an earring into the cartilage on the outer ear, or helix.*

But is piercing this acupuncture point effective? I haven't found any reliable evidence that it is, but the pain may lessen thanks to the placebo effect — you feel better if you believe something will work.

There are risks, though. Piercing cartilage requires careful hygiene, as it is prone to infection. It may be wise to try acupuncture first, which is less invasive.

YOU can write to Clare at *drclarebailey@dailymail.co.uk* or Daily Mail, Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT.

Eyes are the windows to your health

A ROUTINE eye test showed that the retinas at the back of my eyes have healthy blood vessels. That's great news, as this reflects the health of small blood vessels all over the body. The test can also pick up high blood pressure, diabetes and other conditions. However, I was told cataracts have begun in my lenses. Sunlight, smoking and alcohol are causes — so it's dark glasses for me!

Follow A Problem Shared: @DrClareBailey

HOW TO STYLE

Coat, £95, **Asos**; shirt, £85, **Boden**; trousers, £185, **ME+EM**; boots, £69, **M&S**; hat, £65, **Stutterheim** >>

Coat, £62, boots, £30, **Asos**; vest, £155, trousers, £150, **Jigsaw**; shirt, £59, bag, £69, **M&S** >>

Coat, £149, **Joules**; dress, £250, **ME+EM**; wellies, £125, **Hunter** >>

by Gemma Champ

UMBRELLAS are out, but while the showers are welcome after a long and arid summer, they bring the perennial problem of warm-weather rain.

How to enjoy a last gasp of late-summer fashion while also staying dry in the downpours? The answer rests on two items: a raincoat and a pair of chunky boots. But not grown-up trenches and mud-crusted wellies — rather, designs that will make you want to let loose your inner Christopher Robin and splash through the puddles.

Channel blue skies and sunny days with Hunter's bright yellow wellies and a vibrant coat from

THE FIRST LOOK

Our edit of what hits stores TODAY

ALEXANDRIA DALE

^ Jacket, £105, **sezane.com**

Bag, £130, **essentiel antwerp.com** >>

<< Boots, £190, **cos.com**

OUT THE STORMS

Coat, £70, **Cath Kidston**; top, £7.50, **M&S**; skirt, £99, **LK Bennett**; boots, £350, **Patou** >>

Coat, £26.24, **New Look**; vest, £49.50, shirt, £79, **M&S**; trousers, £89.95, **Massimo Dutti**; boots, £49.95, **Joules**; umbrella, £225, **Aspinal of London** >>

>> Coat, £189, **Barbour**; top, £69, **Saint James**; trousers, £69.95, **Massimo Dutti**; boots, £72.95, **Just Fab**; umbrella, as before

Coat, £89, **River Island**; blazer, £277.55, trousers, £149.45, **Celia B**; boots, £49.99, **Zara** >>

Styling: ALEXANDRIA DALE. Pictures: EDWARD YARD. Hair and make-up: COLLETTE RUDDY using Lisa Eldridge. Fashion assistant: ALICE HARE. Model: KAT @ Milk

Joules (above, far left). Worn with a summer dress, the effect is more late-summer cloud-burst than autumn drizzle.

In a similar vein, a classic yellow Breton fisherman's jacket inspires Parisian playfulness when worn with cream trousers, a navy jumper and short wellies from Joules (third from right). The look is perfect for the seaside or the city.

Meanwhile, the return of the vinyl mac recalls a 1960s sensibility. River Island's orange design (right) plus a patterned suit puts the Pow! back into power dressing.

If you're a minimalist, a navy waterproof is a versatile piece. Go for an unbelted shape, like Asos's version, and add some interest with white boots and a hat from rain experts Stutterheim (second left).

Of course, sometimes you just want to shrug your coat over whatever you're wearing. Luckily, this season the eclectic, eccentric look is encouraged. For optimum versatility, choose a neutral, checked trench, as found at Asos (third left). Draped over a sweater and loose trousers, it's the epitome of laidback autumn style. And you won't need a downpour to look stylish in it.

Follow: @dailymailfashion

Scan the QR code to see this fashion gallery come alive in The Mail+

SCAN ME

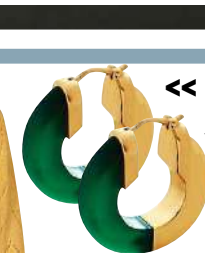
<< Skirt, £85, **boden.co.uk**

Dress, £49, **nobodys child.com** >>

<< Shirt, £115, **the outnet.com**

>> Two piece, £248, **the reformation.com**

^^ Cardigan, £115, **kitristudio.com**



<< Earrings, £195, **monica vinader.com**

Coat, >> £120, **joe browns.co.uk**

Shoes, £190, **augusta thebrand.com** v v

Would you buy a face cream with a name like this?

by Radhika Sanghani

YOU know the pattern: one week your skin looks great, the next it's dull. Then you get a breakout that takes another week to shift.

'Period skin' is something most women can relate to; as hormones peak and dip over each 28-day cycle, so does the quality of our skin. It's why companies have started selling skincare that changes depending on the stage of your cycle — from Typology, which offers a new serum for each week of the month, to Faace, which has a mask called 'Period'.

As you menstruate, oestrogen and progesterone levels are at their lowest, so skin can be dry and sensitive. A week or so later, oestrogen levels rise before ovulation and skin generally looks better. But as progesterone peaks in the second half of the cycle, oil production surges, which can lead to blemishes.

The idea is that if we tweak our skincare to match up with our cycles, we can meet our skin's needs throughout the month so it stays steady — rather than fluctuating along with our hormones.

But is it worth it, or just a gimmick to make us buy a range of products when one would do? We put five brands to the test.

Four-serum cycle

Typology Woman Periodic Serums, £54.30, uk.typology.com

WHAT IS IT? This French skincare brand offers four serums, one to be used in each week of the menstrual cycle.

Week one's serum, for when female hormones are lowest and skin is often dry, is 'hydrating and soothing'; week two is for 'suppleness and radiance'; week three is 'hydrating and astringent' to cut through excess oiliness; while week four is 'mattifying and anti-blemish'.

VERDICT: I can't tell the difference between them — they all seem to leave my skin happily hydrated. But, then, isn't that the point of period skincare? I'm not supposed to notice my skin change — the serums are meant to tackle the hormonal changes for me, so I'm left with balanced skin all the time.

And my skin does look smoother and steadier throughout my cycle: I have far fewer blemishes than normal in week four.

The packaging is beautifully minimalist, but I find the pipette fiddly and hard to use. And these are expensive, however you look at it.

You use each serum for only one week per month, but I find myself going through them quicker than I thought.

Unlike other ranges, they're easy to incorporate into your existing skincare routine — simply add in after cleansing and before moisturising.

BEST FOR: Women who have serious money to splash out on their skincare. **7/10**

Hormone balancer

Period Faace Face Mask, £27, wearefaace.com

WHAT IS IT? A gel face mask (£27) to wear at any stage of the menstrual cycle. It's the most versatile of all the products I tried — even if the name is a little off-putting.

Apply it as a lightweight primer before your normal moisturiser or in a thick layer for a heavy mask that can be left on overnight.

It claims to do different things depending on your hormone levels; either hydrating dry skin or balancing oiliness. And for every mask sold, the company donates a pack of period products to someone in need.

VERDICT: The first time I use it is when I have PMS and my skin is most susceptible to breakouts. I try it as an overnight mask and, in the morning, my skin feels dewy and plump.

After my period, in weeks two and three, I try it in thin layers as a serum under moisturiser, and find the hyaluronic acid does help keep my skin smooth.

It's easy to use, with no need to keep tabs on what week you're in, but I'm not sure it does everything it promises. Sure, it improves hydration and skin texture, but it doesn't prevent breakouts or minimise pore size — I have to add in other products for those.

BEST FOR: Busy midlifers juggling work and family. **7/10**

Instant glow-up

The Body Shop products to be used with its period guide at: thebodyshop.com

WHAT IS IT? The Body Shop doesn't have a specific 'period skincare' range, but it offers an in-depth online guide to using its products during the menstrual cycle.

VERDICT: I start when I have my period and my skin is at its worst. I'm directed to a cleansing or hydrating mask, so I try the Mediterranean Almond Milk With Oats Instant Soothing Mask (£18), which promises to gently relieve dry skin. It smells lovely, and is soothing, but my skin seems the same.

When I try the Himalayan Charcoal Purifying Glow Mask (£18), however, I'm sold. It absorbs excess oil, removes impurities and exfoliates — ideal for clearing breakouts that have cropped up in the week before your period.

In week two, when oil production increases, I use the Tea Tree Skin Clearing Facial Wash and Toner (£9 each). As someone with combination skin, this works well.

In week three, when I'm ovulating and my skin is at its best, I add in a Vitamin C Glow Sheet Mask (£5) which gives an instant glow, and Edelweiss Daily Serum Concentrate (£30) to keep the radiance going.

By week four I can see a difference in my skin. This is normally when oil and sebum production surges, so I start using a Tea Tree Oil (£10) to prevent any blemishes.

I enter my next period cycle with healthier-looking skin than I've had for months.

BEST FOR: Problem skin. **9/10**

PMS reliever

Urban Veda's Reviving range, urbanveda.com

WHAT IS IT? This Ayurvedic skincare range is designed to naturally balance the skin all over the body, particularly during hormonal cycles.

VERDICT: I try the Reviving Facial Oil (£29.99), which contains evening primrose oil — believed to help with PMS and hot flushes in menopausal women — and shatavari, a herb believed to help female hormonal balance.

It smells amazing (the range contains aromatherapy oils) and my skin gradually looks brighter and plumper.

Unlike any other period skincare range, this also has body products — from a Reviving Lotion (£12.99) to a Reviving Rose Body Oil (£35) — which means I can balance hormonal changes everywhere, not just on my face.

When I develop dryness on my legs before my period, the rose oil really helps.

I also start using an Ayurvedic Dry Body Brush (£17.50), briskly massaging myself pre-shower to improve circulation and detoxify the body. I'm not sure I'm toxin-free, but it definitely leaves my skin feeling smooth enough to keep using it.

BEST FOR: Women who want full-body treatments. **9/10**

DATING IN CRISIS: PART THREE

by Rosie Green

NOBODY will ever love me again. Those were the words I wrote under the heading 'your greatest fear', as part of an exercise at a divorce bootcamp three years ago.

I was more scared of being single than I was of ending up homeless or stuck in financial purgatory.

That said, I wasn't exactly fearless about the prospect of finding someone to love me. Single friends had warned me about online dating. The self-confidence-crushing no-show dates, unwanted nude pictures, ghosting and love bombing and so-called 'bread-crumbing' (i.e. leading you on by showing morsels of interest with no intention of actually going out — surprisingly common online).

It is daunting, especially when your confidence is at an all-time low post-divorce, but I learned it really doesn't have to be dismal. You just need a strategy.

There are ways of gaming the system, tipping the scales in your favour and — most importantly — rediscovering the fun of it all: the luxury of dressing up, the frisson of meeting a handsome stranger…

I decided to go for it a year after my marriage broke up.

At 45, I hadn't been single for more than 26 years. (I'd met my ex aged 18 at university.) So part of me felt excited at the prospect of meeting new men.

A friend took charge and signed me up to Hinge, an app which claims to be about finding relationships rather than hook-ups. It felt weird. And then kind of great as all these men started flashing in front of my eyes.

In the space of five months, I went on ten dates. I enjoyed meeting new people, hearing their stories. I counted it as success if I'd had a good time. And invariably I did.

There were ups and downs, obviously. The guy who wore sunglasses the whole time — indoors. The man who (seriously) tried to fly me to Majorca for the first date. Those who ghosted and those who wanted me to send them pictures of myself — naked.

The man who I thought had an old-fashioned, slightly bumbling charm but turned out to be a fop who talked about himself incessantly and bad-mouthed his exes — his wife and the woman he'd left her for.

But overall, the positives outweighed the negatives. I met two boyfriends through dating apps — both lasted around six months — and it played an integral part in building back my self-esteem after my devastating divorce.

I'm now with a man I met IRL (in real life) — introduced through a friend — and we've been together over a year. I'm so happy and this comes in part thanks to the lessons I learnt while on the dating circuit.

Seriously, if you get in the right 'zone', online dating can be the most brilliant gift of the modern age. You just have to follow these golden rules…

TIPS TO BEAT THE ALGORITHM

THINK strategically: you need your profile to be shown to as many people as possible on the app and, crucially, you need newcomers to see it quickly. New users get taken, or become jaded, and you want access to them before either happens.

To make this more likely, you need to visit the site regularly. If they detect inactivity, the people — or algorithms — that run the app will make your profile less visible. Refreshing your pictures (adding new ones and removing old ones) every month will mean your profile is given more prominence.

By the way, selfies get 40 per cent less engagement than normal photos. Avoid filtering your pictures or wearing sunglasses,

DON'T lie about your age. DON'T post selfies. DO juggle four men at once! Divorcee Rosie, 48, shares her hard-learned ...

TEN RULES to find the man of your dreams online

Picture: JOHN NGUYEN / THE TIMES / NEWS LICENSING

Sage advice: Rosie Green

but do smile with your teeth, include full-lengths and a picture doing something you love. I paid the extra money for the premium service. On Hinge this works out at £10 a month if you opt for a six-month period. Less than a takeaway and it's your future so why wouldn't you?

SETTING THE RIGHT TONE

SO MUCH rests on those initial messages. Make them light-hearted and fun. Being too aloof is off-putting, as is being too keen. Don't get too deep or too sexual too early. Basically don't get too invested at this stage.

Imagine you are messaging with a new colleague. You'd like to meet up with them, but your entire self worth/future life doesn't depend on it. Oh, and avoid stock responses or opening lines that show no originality. 'Hey!' won't cut it.

As for the dates themselves, be breezy. I treat them in the same way I do any other big event that feels scary: count to three and take a deep breath. I also remind myself that whatever happens it's only a few hours and then I'll be back home.

DON'T LIE — EVEN ABOUT YOUR AGE

HANDS up, I learnt this the hard way. On my profile I put my location as London instead of the Home Counties village I really live in. I didn't want anyone local to see me on an app. This was a mistake in retrospect. I was greeted by ominous silence when I confessed my true location to the man that was to be my first boyfriend and he continued to raise it throughout our relationship.

A friend of mine shaves a couple of years off her age. This also turns men off. Ditto use of filters.

RELEASE THE SAFETY BRAKES

SOME dating experts recommend keeping first dates brief and businesslike. Say, a coffee with a rigid time slot. I disagree. I think that's admitting defeat before you've even started.

For my dates, I went out for dinner — but was selective about who I did that with. That way it didn't feel like I was 'interviewing' them or them me.

The constraints of just a coffee or a 'quick drink' feels, to me, like you both have one foot out the door already. It might sound counterintuitive, but committing to a significant chunk of time feels like less pressure. It's also a sign of emotional generosity and the opposite of being jaded and uptight.

It paid off for me as I had so many fun nights out and the most successful of these was when the safety brakes came off and I relaxed. I know there's a trend for sober dating, but I found a few drinks to be a vital social lubricant.

HOW TO HANDLE A 'ZQ DATER'

ASK questions, flirt a little, flatter a bit. Ask them about their job, their lives, their family. Even if you don't fancy them, you can learn something here.

Online dating forums are full of people talking about ZQ daters (ZQ = zero questions). Don't be that person. If your date does talk endlessly about themselves, leave pauses in conversation and they will hopefully be reminded to ask about you.

Remember they will be nervous too. Put them at ease. Steer them away from previous partners. Say something nice about their clothing or fragrance. Find common ground. And gentle teasing (rather than pointed barbs) will deepen any connection and create a feeling of familiarity.

KNOW WHEN TO SIT ON YOUR HANDS

DON'T pursue them. I know it's 2022 and it's old-fashioned to put the ball in their court — but when it comes to arranging the next date, I say sit on your hands.

Be open, be friendly, make it clear you like them but don't ask them out. I would also say don't invest emotionally in a relationship until a few months in. Think of it as a dating probation period.

When it comes to men sending you snaps, if they verge on too sexual or too plentiful, gently shut them down by either not responding to the photos, engaging on another topic or saying you want to save that kind of thing for later.

If they are way too sexual, block, block, block. You are more likely to encounter this kind of thing on hook-up apps such as Tinder.

SAY YES TO SECOND CHANCES

IT'S TOO easy to dismiss someone because you don't immediately want to rip their clothes off. Maybe their height was not as advertised or they seem a bit too quiet. But I think online dating can become all about tick boxes, whereas it's good to see what emerges on the second, third or fourth dates. The person you think you want may not be the person you need. When I was dating, if I was on the fence about someone, I'd give it at least one more chance. Maybe two.

THERE CAN BE SAFETY IN NUMBERS

IN THE early days of dating, experts like the Divorce Coach Sara Davison recommend chatting to four or five men at one time. It stops you focusing too much on one of them, getting too invested. Plus, it's fun. I did this in the early days of online dating. That said, it was time-consuming!

MOVE ON GRACEFULLY

I WASN'T great at this in the beginning. I may have done some ghosting myself, which I'm not proud of. I learnt from my best friend that this is not best practice. Do unto others and all that. So I would say, 'I don't see a romantic future for us.' Simple.

NO ONE WANTS A 'DEPENDENT'

IT'S important to offer to pay your way on all dates. I make an exception if they suggest a super-expensive restaurant, but even then I'd buy the drinks at the start or the end. Or pay for the cab. I think it's basic human psychology. No man or woman wants to feel like they are taking on a dependent.

■ *WHY NOT let our dating experts fix you up on a date? Simply email your — or (with their permission) a friend's — details and a photo to blinddate@dailymail.co.uk Follow Rosie on Instagram @lifesrosie*

Blind Date

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'I usually go for rugby types — he's a bit too pretty for me'

AMBER, 28

VITAL STATISTICS
SINGLE with no children.

CURRENT ROLE
WINE sales executive.

WOULD LIKE TO MEET
SOMEONE who is easy to talk to and fun to be with. I definitely don't want a 'player' who is entertaining multiple women. If he liked wine, it would be a bonus.

DATING PAST?
I'VE HAD one serious relationship in the past which lasted four-and-a-half years but we split up five years ago as he cheated on me. I've had a couple of other relationships but they've only lasted a few months.

PRE-DATE NERVES?
I'D NEVER been on a blind date before but I wasn't particularly nervous. Thanks to my job, I'm used to socialising with strangers, so I felt comfortable meeting Ricardo.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS?
HE WAS already at the table when I arrived, so he stood up, gave me a hug and a kiss and introduced himself. He certainly wasn't unattractive but I normally go for dark-haired, bearded rugby types, whereas he was a bit too 'pretty' and smooth-looking.

EASY TO TALK TO?
YES, he was friendly and polite, if a little shy. We share a love of travel. He has family all over Europe so had done plenty of trips around the Continent, whereas I have been further afield and want to travel closer to home now.

We are both close to our families and talked about them; he has two brothers and I've got four siblings.

He put me off a little when he said he barely drinks. That's fine, of course, and a personal choice, but my job revolves around wine, so it would have been nice to have felt able to talk about that. Otherwise, he was nice.

EMBARRASSING MOMENTS?
I THOUGHT he was a restaurant manager, so I started asking him about the restaurant and wine trade but it turns out he works in Domino's. I'm not judging him, it was just awkward. He's also a part-time model and wants to do more so we got chatting about that, too.

DID SPARKS FLY?
NO. I knew pretty much straight away that I wasn't interested in him romantically. We got on well on a friend level but he isn't my type.

SEE HIM AGAIN?
I DON'T think so. He asked for my Instagram handle, so we swapped those and we messaged each other to make sure we'd got home safely.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HE THOUGHT OF YOU?
I THINK he thought it was good to meet me and we did have a lovely time. I go to Manchester, where he lives, regularly for work, so we might meet for a coffee if he wanted to.

WOULD YOUR FAMILY LIKE HIM?
YES, he's polite and friendly, but they'd think he was quite introverted, whereas I'm more sociable.

AMBER'S VERDICT: 7/10

LIKED? The flow of conversation.
REGRETS? None.
COFFEE OR CAB? Cab.

'She has lovely eyes… we chatted so much I missed my train'

Pictures: BEN LISTER

RICARDO, 32

VITAL STATISTICS
SINGLE for one year with no children.

CURRENT ROLE
RESTAURANT manager and part-time model.

WOULD LIKE TO MEET
SOMEONE who likes sports and being active. But also I'd like to meet someone who I can have a proper chat with. My celebrity crush is the Australian actress Margot Robbie.

DATING PAST?
I HAD one serious relationship but we moved to different cities, so we split up. Before that, I was at university and so I just had fun.

PRE-DATE NERVES?
NOT really. I've been on Tinder dates before but this was the first time I was meeting someone with no clue what they looked like. But I didn't feel anxious about it.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS?
WHEN Amber turned up at the restaurant, my first thought was that she is a very pretty girl. She has nice eyes and a lovely smile.

She was wearing a black dress with flowers and leggings and high heels. I don't have a type; I like a woman's personality.

We greeted each other with a peck on the cheek. Amber seemed smiley and friendly.

EASY TO TALK TO?
YES, she was friendly and fun. We talked about our families and the food we like and where we had travelled. She's not into the gym, like me, but she seems to like fitness and is active, so that was good. She was confident and open and kept the conversation flowing, so there were never any awkward moments.

EMBARRASSING MOMENTS?
NO.

DID SPARKS FLY?
IT'S HARD to say. I think we flirted a little, more through body language than what we said but I'm not sure if there's a romantic spark. We'd have to meet again for me to gauge if there's anything more there.

We have messaged each other a few times. The main problem with us meeting again is that she lives in Kent and I'm based in Manchester, so that wouldn't make it easy. But if she's ever in my city again, I'd definitely meet up for a coffee.

SEE HER AGAIN?
YES, that would be nice but, as I said, it might not be practical with us living at opposite ends of the country.

WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE THOUGHT OF YOU?
I THINK she liked me but I'm not sure if that's in a romantic way. We got on well though and didn't stop talking. In fact, we were chatting so much I missed my train home and had to get a later one.

WOULD YOUR FAMILY LIKE HER?
YES, I think so. She's friendly and fun and can chat easily to people.

RICARDO'S VERDICT: 8/10

LIKED? There were no awkward situations.
REGRETS? None at all.
COFFEE OR CAB? Cab.

Interviews: JILL FOSTER

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WARTIME SERVICE

My Grandparents' War, 9pm, Ch4

KIT HARINGTON (pictured) has played soldiers, spies and, most famously, a warrior (Jon Snow in Game Of Thrones). But, as we discover in the first episode of this second series of the wartime take on Who Do You Think You Are?, all of these roles were already part of his DNA. Here, an emotional Kit learns about how his four grandparents served Britain in the Second World War. It's a fascinating family history, full of revelations such as the fact that the actor's paternal grandfather, John Harington, served alongside James Bond creator Ian Fleming in Naval Intelligence. Meanwhile, Kit's mother's father, Mick Catesby, fell in love with future wife Pippa during the Blitz, before Mick was sent to fight in Italy; he returned home a decorated hero, but shell shock left him unable to speak of the war.

PICK OF TODAY'S TV

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL, 9PM, CH5

IT'S back to Skeldale for a third series of the comforting rural drama. Three months have passed and it's now the spring of 1939 as the episode opens with vet James Herriot (Nicholas Ralph) serenely driving through the lush Yorkshire Dales on the eve of his marriage to Helen (Rachel Shenton, pictured centre with Samuel West as Siegfried, Ralph, Callum Woodhouse as Tristan and Anna Madeley as Mrs Hall). Hungover after his rowdy stag do at the Drovers Arms, James — who always puts the animals first and is taking his responsibiities even more seriously now that he's been made a partner in the practice — learns that there is a tuberculosis scare at one of the farms, high up in the hills. Wedding day or not, he rushes to tend to the cows, but will he make it to church in time? And will the small matter of a missing ring spoil the big day. Meanwhile, the looming prospect of war is bringing changes to the village of Darrowby, and as the young Yorkshire lads are signing up to do their bit, the vets are torn about where their duties lie.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast** (HD)
10.00 **Animal Park** (AD,R,HD) Ben Fogle observes a Cuban crocodile death roll for the first time.
10.45 **The Farmers' Country Showdown** (HD) Tereza shows her prize goats at the Tendring Hundred Show.
11.15 **Homes Under the Hammer** (HD) Properties are examined in Warwickshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
12.15 **Bargain Hunt** (AD,R,HD) From Leominster in Herefordshire.
1.00 **BBC News at One;** Weather (HD)
1.30 **BBC Regional News;** Weather
1.45 **Doctors** (AD,HD) Al's relief at solving the mystery is short-lived when he returns to the hospital to see Eve.
2.15 **Money for Nothing** (R,HD) Jacqui Joseph discovers a nest of tables and an inflatable pool in High Wycombe.
3.00 **Escape to the Country** (AD,HD) A couple from South London search for their dream home in Devon.
3.45 **The Bidding Room** (R,HD) A vintage scooter and a birthing chair.
4.30 **Antiques Road Trip** (HD) Raj Bisram and Irita Marriott find delights in Devon, where they dig up some wooden toys and prized pottery
5.15 **Pointless** (R,HD) Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong.
6.00 **BBC News at Six;** Weather (HD)
6.30 **BBC Regional News;** Weather

7 PM

7.00 **The One Show: Our Queen Remembered** (HD) Alex Jones and Gethin Jones share viewers' memories of the Queen.
7.30 **EastEnders** (AD,HD) Dotty makes a confession to Vinny.

8 PM

8.00 **The Repair Shop** (R,HD) The team restore a rosewood table, a panda bear and a toy steamboat.
8.30 PICK **Celebrity MasterChef** (AD,HD) Mary Berry tasks the contenders with recreating one of her favourite recipes.

9 PM

9.30 PICK **Celebrity MasterChef** (HD) The remaining six celebrities cook comfort food for restaurant critic Grace Dent.

10 PM

10.00 **BBC News at Ten** (HD)

11 PM

11.00 **BBC Regional News** (Followed by Weather)
11.10 FILM **Their Finest** (1982) (15) ◆ (HD) An ex-secretary appointed as a scriptwriter for propaganda films joins the crew of a major production while the Blitz rages around them. Comedy drama, starring Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin, Bill Nighy and Richard E. Grant.

12 MNT

1.00 **Weather for the Week Ahead** (HD) **1.05** BBC News (HD)

BBC2

6.45 **Bargain Hunt** (R,HD) Charlie Ross presents from Wadebridge.
7.30 **Antiques Road Trip** (R,HD) Raj Bisram and Irita Marriotthead to Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds in search of antique treasures.
8.15 **Fake or Fortune?** (AD,BSL,R,HD) Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate a wall painting in a Surrey cottage that could be the work of British modernist Ben Nicholson.
9.15 **Coast** (R,HD) Mark Horton has privileged access to the historic dockyards at Devonport.
10.00 **BBC News** (HD)
1.00 **Best Bakes Ever** (R,HD) Actress and cake expert Jane Asher presents a selection of recipes from television chefs, including the likes of James Martin, Mary Berry, Paul Hollywood and the Hairy Bikers.
1.45 **BBC News** (HD) The latest headlines, breaking news and sport.
6.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games** (HD) Rob Deering, Katya Jones, Jayne Middlemiss and Phil Tufnell test their general knowledge skills in a series of quiz rounds selected by the host.
6.30 **Unbeatable** (HD) Quiz show, hosted by Jason Manford, where questions have six answers, but only one is unbeatable.

7 PM

7.00 **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip** (R,HD) Actors Robert Daws and Mark Curry go antique hunting in Lancashire, where Roo Irvine and Izzy Balmer offer expert advice.

8 PM

8.00 **Saving Lives at Sea** (AD,HD) On Ireland's north-west coast, the RNLI crew at Bundoran race to the rescue of a teenage girl who has been swept out to sea by a rip-current.

9 PM

9.00 **All That Glitters: Britain's Next Jewellery Star** (AD,HD) The jewellers have to make a brooch inspired by Birmingham's rich culture and heritage, plus a bespoke ear cuff for Elliot to wear to a special LGBTQ+ event.

10 PM

10.00 **TOTP 1987** (HD) Studio performances, videos, celebrity interviews and archive footage of classic hits.
10.30 **Newsnight** (HD) (Followed by Weather)

11 PM

11.15 **Cricket: Women's T20 Highlights** (HD) England v India.
11.45 **Days That Shook the BBC with David Dimbleby** (AD,R,HD) David explores the BBC's relationship with the British people. Last in series.

12 MNT

12.45 **Stolen: Catching the Art Thieves** (AD,R,HD) The theft of a painting by J.M.W. Turner from the Schirn gallery in Frankfurt in 1994. **1.45** The Queen & I (BSL,R,HD) **2.45** The Longest Reign: The Queen and Her People (BSL,R,HD) **3.45** This Is BBC2

ITV

6.00 **Good Morning Britain** (HD) News, entertainment and lifestyle features.
9.00 **Lorraine** (HD) Entertainment news.
10.00 **This Morning** (HD) Daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, lifestyle features, topical discussion, health and beauty advice and more.
12.30 **Loose Women** (HD) The women put the world to rights once more and invite a celebrity guest to chat about what they are up to.
1.30 **News;** Weather (HD)
1.55 **Regional News;** Weather (HD)
2.00 **Dickinson's Real Deal** (AD,HD) David Dickinson and his dealer den visit Newport, where Karen Dalmeny pays big bucks for a stunning brooch, and Laurie Scully conducts a male voice choir.
3.00 **Tenable** (HD) A team of colleagues from the British Transport Police compete in the game show, hosted by Warwick Davis; Regional Weather
4.00 **Tipping Point** (HD) Quiz show, hosted by Ben Shephard.
5.00 **The Chase** (HD) Bradley Walsh presents as contestants Andrew, Amy, Jean and Success work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize.
6.00 **Regional News;** Weather (HD)
6.30 **News;** Weather (HD)

7 PM

7.30 **Emmerdale** (AD,HD) Kim is shocked to learn that Hazel has been involved in a car accident. Having returned from the police station, Naomi worries she will be facing jail time.

8 PM

8.00 **Emmerdale** (AD,HD) The police show Kim definitive proof that Jamie is alive, and Millie overhears Kim talking about her dad.
8.30 **Emmerdale** (AD,HD) Harriet informs an anxious Kim that they have not found Millie.

9 PM

9.00 **Coronation Street** (AD,HD) As a nervous Toyah heads to court, Leanne begs her not to say something she will regret, and to let her solicitor do the talking. Zeedan and Stu prepare for Sean's birthday party.

10 PM

10.00 **News** (HD) (Followed by Weather)
10.30 **Regional News** (HD) (Followed by Weather)
10.45 **Queen and Country** (R,HD) The Queen's love of rural life through the eyes of those who shared her passion for the great outdoors.

11 PM

11.40 **Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad** (R,HD) The actor and his son embark on a 3,000-mile journey through Europe, beginning in Croatia, where they go head to head on aqua bikes.

12 MNT

12.10 **Shop: Ideal World** (HD) **3.00** Bling (HD) Kiran is entrusted with making a new wedding band for Maria and Lee. **3.50** Unwind with ITV (HD) **5.05** Ainsley's Mediterranean Cookbook (HD) The chef's tour of Corsica brings him to the island of Bonifacio.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **Countdown** (R,HD)
6.50 **3rd Rock from the Sun** (AD,R)
7.15 **3rd Rock from the Sun** (AD,R)
7.40 **Everybody Loves Raymond** (AD,R)
8.05 **Everybody Loves Raymond** (AD,R)
8.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond** (AD,R)
9.00 **Frasier** (AD,R)
9.30 **Frasier** (AD,R)
10.00 **Frasier** (AD,R)
10.30 **Four in a Bed** (R,HD)
11.00 **The Great House Giveaway** (R,HD)
12.00 **Channel 4 News Summary** (HD)
12.30 **Steph's Packed Lunch** (HD) Weekday magazine show.
2.10 **Countdown** (HD) Rick Edwards is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 **A Place in the Sun** (R,HD) Danni Menzies helps two sisters to buy a family property in Cadiz.
4.00 **Chateau DIY** (AD,HD) Becky and Mark embark on a gite project.
5.00 **Moneybags** (HD) Quiz show.
6.00 **The Simpsons** (AD,R) Homer's computing error plunges Earth into chaos, and Bart and Lisa save Xena the Warrior Princess from a super-villain.
6.30 **Hollyoaks** (AD,R,HD) Sid tries to persuade Lizzie to go on holiday with him, and just when she agrees to think about it, he is left visibly shaken when he receives a letter from prison.

7 PM

7.00 **Channel 4 News** (HD)

8 PM

8.00 **George Clarke's Old House, New Home** (AD,R,HD) George helps to transform a terrace that needs to accommodate three generations of the same family, and meets a couple tackling their 16th-century gatehouse in Hove.

9 PM

9.00 PICK **My Grandparents' War: Kit Harington** (AD,HD) New series. The actor digs into his grandparents' experiences during the Second World War, including his grandfather who worked alongside writer Ian Fleming.

10 PM

10.00 **Grand Designs** (R,HD) Kevin McCloud follows architect Iain and his wife, Jenny, who intend to build a black minimalist building right in the middle of a 19th-century Scottish country estate.

11 PM

11.05 **Britain's Most Expensive Houses** (R,HD) Company director Jason is determined to bag Otterburn Castle in Northumberland.

12 MNT

12.10 FILM **First Dates Hotel** (AD,BSL,R,HD) **1.05** Finding the Cornish Dream (AD,BSL,R,HD) **2.00** FILM: Village Rockstars (2017) (U) ● (HD) **3.30** The Queen: Mother and Monarch (R,HD) **4.20** Perfect House, Secret Location (AD,BSL,R,HD) **5.15** The Great Home Transformation (AD,BSL,R,HD)

(R) Repeat. (HD) High Definition. (AD) Audio Description. (b/w) Not in colour. (BSL) British Sign Language.

■ Family viewing ● Generally suitable for all ◆ Caution recommended

STAR COOKS
Celebrity MasterChef, 8.30pm, BBC1

THE conclusion of the semi-final stage was postponed last week, but now we get to find out which five of the seven remaining celebrities (including Lisa Snowdon, pictured) will still be cooking in finals week, which gets under way tomorrow at 9pm. First, they must serve up one of Mary Berry's classic recipes to Dame Mary herself, before preparing a comfort food dish for restaurant critic Grace Dent.

FILM CHOICES
The Elephant Man, 9pm, BBC4

THIS thoughtful film stars John Hurt as John Merrick, the disfigured man who rose to fame in Victorian England. Hurt makes him both a tragic and heroic figure, while Anthony Hopkins is the doctor who gives him a home.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Kid-E-Cats (R,HD) **6.05** Peppa Pig **6.10** Peppa Pig (R,HD) **6.15** Peppa Pig (R,HD) **6.20** Mya Go (R,HD) **6.30** Blue's Clues & You (R,HD) **6.50** Fireman Sam (R,HD) **7.15** Peppa Pig (R,HD) **7.20** Peppa Pig (R,HD) **7.25** Paw Patrol (R,HD) **7.35** Milo (R,HD) **7.50** Pip and Posy (R,HD) **8.05** The Adventures of Paddington (R,HD) **8.20** Ricky Zoom (R,HD) **8.35** Peppa Pig (AD,HD) **8.40** Daisy & Ollie (R) **8.50** Odo (R,HD) **8.55** Kangaroo Beach (R,HD) **9.10** Sunny Bunnies (R,HD)

9.15 Jeremy Vine (HD) The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day, with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins.

12.45 Holiday Homes in the Sun (HD)

1.40 5 News at Lunchtime (HD)

1.45 Home and Away (HD) Eden notices Kirby acting strangely.

2.15 My Killer Twin (2021) (PG) ● (HD)
FILM A woman moves back to her home town, only to discover she has a long-lost twin, but her newfound sister might be a murderer. Thriller, starring Emily Piggford.

4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (R,HD) Wayne, a one-man Beatles tribute act, performs up and down the Costa del Sol.

5.00 5 News (HD)

6.00 Cash in the Attic (AD) Helping people to make money from the items they have accumulated.

7.00 Costco: How Do They Really Do It? (R,HD) A look at the workings of the membership-only retailer, examining if its products are really premium ones in disguise, and putting them to the test.

7.55 5 News Update (HD)

8.00 Secrets of Your Supermarket Shop (AD,HD) Angellica Bell tests kitchen gadgets, while Alexis Conran finds out how people can drive more efficiently. (Followed by 5 News Update)

9.00 All Creatures Great and Small
PICK (AD,HD) New series. Return of the drama, starring Nicholas Ralph. Three months have passed and it is now spring of 1939, with big changes happening at Skeldale.

10.00 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild (R,HD) Ben meets a photographer living off the land in Oregon, who lives by catching fish and harvesting wild weeds and has built his own sweat lodge.

11.05 Police: Night Shift 999 (R,HD) Officers are called to a fight in a takeaway and arrest four men, the occupants of a car abandon the vehicle after a hit-and-run, and bouncers are racially abused by a passer-by.

12.05 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (R,HD) **1.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts (R,HD) **2.00** 999: Critical Condition (R,HD) **3.00** Our Favourite Sweets (R,HD) **5.00** Wildlife SOS (BSL,R,HD) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.30** Peppa Pig (BSL,R) **5.35** Paw Patrol (BSL,R,HD)

▲ Particularly liable to offend

You'll never outpace a Shetland copper in a reasonably priced car

ROLAND WHITE
LAST NIGHT'S TV

Shetland ★★★★☆ Changing Rooms ★★★☆☆

IT WAS a far, far better thing that Detective Inspector Jimmy Perez did last night than he has ever done before.

The hero of **Shetland** (BBC1) quit his job on a matter of principle after freeing a murder suspect, wanted in the U.S., whom he believed to be innocent. And suspect Lloyd Anderson, played by Patrick Robinson, seemed remarkably grateful considering that Perez had just arrested his lover for murder.

It was a busy last day at work as Perez (Douglas Henshall) prevented a bomb attack by an eco-terrorist, wrapped up three murders and at last declared his love for adorable Nurse Meg (Lucianne McEvoy). About time, too.

The main killer — accounting for two of the bodies — turned out to be environmental campaigner Jamie Narey (Grant O'Rourke), who had a grudge against the oil industry after the death of his activist girlfriend.

He drove a car packed with explosives into the centre of Lerwick, but didn't connect the fuse. Instead he set off in a stolen car with a backpack bomb, intending to blow himself up at the scene of a large oil spill.

Perez hit the road in hot pursuit in a dramatic car chase through picturesque moorland scenery.

Well, I say hot pursuit but here is a tip for first-time bombers: if you are going to steal a car, make it a fast one. Narey pinched a Kia saloon: the sort of model Top Gear might rate as 'reasonably priced' but no match for Perez and his Audi.

The inspector cornered the bomber on a cliff edge, with only a black pea coat for protective clothing. Was this the moment that Perez was to be written out of the series? Not when a police marksman is on hand with a clear shot.

Not long after, Perez was standing over Narey's hospital bed, wearing that expression teachers use when they're particularly disappointed in you.

Actor Henshall is leaving the series, but there was a hint that Shetland will carry on with Sergeant 'Tosh' McIntosh (Alison O'Donnell) as anointed heir. 'You're ready,' Perez told her. 'Trust me.'

She wouldn't be the first reliable sergeant with a Scottish island connection who has stepped into the boss's shoes. Yes, Tosh could now be Shetland's Lewis.

A recent edition of The Radio Times asked: 'Has Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen gone too far?'

What an odd question. Isn't going too far the whole point of Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen?

The magazine was referring to last night's episode of **Changing Rooms** (C4) in which Laurence and his design team swept into Wokingham to add a bit of colour to two 1960s properties.

He was, as always, overdressed: a frock coat and a polka-dotted cravat, plus an elaborate umbrella with what appeared to be a silver head as the handle. If the design work ever dries up, he'd be perfect as the next Time Lord.

Changing Rooms first bounced onto our screens in 1996, and has lost none of its energy. This is partly because of Laurence's approach to design and indeed life: go big or go home.

Faced with the small grey bedroom of this week's doughty guinea pigs, who else would immediately decide to combine Salvador Dali and mid-20th century Hollywood?

'I walked into the room,' Laurence said as his eye-straining vision of reds and oranges began to take shape, 'and you know what the room said to me? Thank you!'

The room might have been grateful, but owners Mark and Jackie weren't quite so delighted by Dali. Enthusiastic at first, they have now 'toned down' the look. Can't win them all, Laurence.

■ *CHRISTOPHER STEVENS is away.*

DOUBLE ACT OF THE NIGHT: Daniel Craig and Christopher Eccleston starred in the re-runs of Our Friends In The North (BBC4), the 1996 drama set in 1960s Tyneside which first made their names. James Bond teams up with Doctor Who — now wouldn't that be a cracking series?

WELSH TV VARIATIONS

BBC1: 10.00am Iolo: A Wild Life. **10.30** The Best Dishes Ever. **10.45** Homes Under the Hammer. **11.45** Wales' Home of the Year. **1.30pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather. **6.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather. **8.00** Charles, Prince to a King: Wales and the New Monarch. **9.00** Celebrity MasterChef. **11.10** Celebrity MasterChef. **11.40** Their Finest. **12.15am** BBC News.

BBC2: 10.00pm Rewind: 60 Years of Welsh Pop. Artists from the 2000s, featuring Duffy, Super Furry Animals and Goldie Lookin' Chain.

ITV: 11.20pm Fishlock's Choice. A collection of theatre and cinema organs. **11.50** Wales on TV.

S4C: 6.00am Cyw. **12noon** Newyddion. **12.05** Sain Ffagan. **12.30** Heno. **1.00** Pysgod i Bawb. **1.30** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer. **2.00** Newyddion. **2.05** Prynhawn Da. **3.00** Newyddion. **3.05** Cynefin. **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh. **6.00** Codi Pac. **6.30** Richard Holt: Yr Academi Felys. **6.57** Newyddion. **7.00** Heno. **7.30** Newyddion. **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. **8.25** Rownd a Rownd. **8.55** Newyddion a'r Tywydd. **9.00** Ffon Hague: Jiwbili'r Frenhines. **10.00** Rygbi Pawb. **10.45** Gwesty Aduniad.

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PICK OF DIGITAL & ON DEMAND TV

DOCTOR THORNE, ACORN TV

DOWNTON ABBEY creator Julian Fellowes scripted this 2016 adaptation of the 1858 Anthony Trollope novel — the third of the Victorian author's Chronicles of Barsetshire — which was rather overshadowed at the time of its broadcast on ITV by The Night Manager on BBC1. Tom Hollander stars as the eponymous Doctor, who has raised his niece, Mary (Stefanie Martini), since birth. Mary loves her childhood friend Frank Gresham (Poldark's Harry Richardson) but Frank's mother, Lady Arabella is determined that he should marry into money to pay off the family's massive debts to the ruthless Sir Roger Scatcherd, played with scenery-chewing relish by Ian McShane. Glow's Alison Brie plays the American heiress on whom Lady Arabella (Rebecca Front, pictured with Hollander, McShane and Martini) sets her sights. The three-hour mini-series is all about marriages and heirs and money and status, playing out in a variety of sprawling country estates, and although predictable, it's soapy, romantic and good fun.

SCANDI-NOIR

The Lorenskog Disappearance, Netflix

ANNE-ELISABETH HAGEN disappeared from her home in Lorenskog, Norway, in October 2018. To date she hasn't been found. Was she murdered or kidnapped? Or did she just decide to run away from her life? And what role did her billionaire husband Tom Hagen play in it all? This real-life case provides the jumping-off point for a very dark slice of nordic noir that follows the detectives and journalists (including Kidane Dalva and Yngvild Grotmol, pictured) trying to unpick the mystery. It aims to chart the effect on everyone involved as much as it does to crack the mystery. And in many ways that's even more interesting.

TRUE CRIME

Sins Of Our Mother, Netflix

DID seemingly perfect Idaho mum Lori Vallow really kill two of her own children? This chilling three-part documentary is not for the faint-hearted as it digs into the hidden story of obsession, lies and twisted religious beliefs that led Vallow to go from small-town happiness to national infamy in seemingly no time at all.

PARAMEDIC SITCOM

Bloods, 10pm, Sky Comedy

MALEEK (Samson Kayo) gets a new partner in tonight's episode of Sky's reliably funny comedy, and so does Jo (Lucy Punch). Fresh pairings provide the opportunity for fresh jokes, which is always good. Meanwhile, there's some devastating news for Kareshma and Gary.

Time	BBC 4	E4	ITV2
	9 (Scot 24)	13	6
7.00pm	**Takaya: Lone Wolf** Following wildlife photographer Cheryl Alexander's seven years documenting the life of a lone wolf on an island off the coast of Canada	**Hollyoaks** All eyes are on James as he makes a big confession	**Secret Crush** Courtney has had a crush on her best friend and is not sure he is into women, but she is ready to give it a shot. Game show, hosted by Verona Rose
7.30pm		**The Big Bang Theory** Kripke plays a prank on Sheldon	
8.00pm	**The Last Days of Anne Boleyn** A sift through the evidence to determine why Henry VIII's second wife was executed in 1536	**Below Deck: Mediterranean** Danny disobeys a direct order from Captain Mark when he decides to give a love poem to a guest	**Bob's Burgers** Linda finds a potato that resembles her late grandfather
8.30pm			**Bob's Burgers** Bob gets involved in a gingerbread house competition
9.00pm	**The Elephant Man (1980,PG)** A disfigured man's life is transformed by his friendship with a respected doctor in Victorian London. Fact-based drama directed by David Lynch, starring John Hurt, Anthony Hopkins, Anne Bancroft, John Gielgud, Wendy Hiller and Freddie Jones	**Married at First Sight UK** Wedding bells chime once more. But while one couple discovers they have a connection, one groom has second thoughts	**Gordon, Gino and Fred: American Road Trip** The trio arrive in Texas, where Gordon Ramsay enjoys the barbecue food — but also find time to play lumberjack
9.30pm			
10.00pm		**Dirty House Rescue: Queens of Clean** The writing is on the wall for 18-year-old DJ Jolie, whose bedroom wall has become a graffiti free-for-all	**Shopping with Keith Lemon** With Sharon Osbourne and Aitch
10.30pm			**Family Guy** Peter becomes an intelligent person
11.00pm	**The Sky at Night** The team explores the world of astrophotography	**11.05 Gogglebox** The householders' opinions on recent television, including *Australia: Earth's Magical Kingdom*, *The Chase* and *Line of Duty* (To 12.05)	**Family Guy** Lois tires of Peter's poor performances in the bedroom
11.30pm	**Afghanistan: The Great Game — A Personal View by Rory Stewart**		**American Dad!** Stan is enlisted to organise the CIA calendar (To 12.00)

A-Z SATELLITE LISTINGS

ALIBI

Sky 109 Virgin 126

12noon Death in Paradise. **1.00** Father Brown. **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries. **4.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries. **5.00** Unforgettable. **6.00** Major Crimes. **7.00** Rizzoli & Isles. **8.00** Death in Paradise. **9.00** Murdoch Mysteries. **10.00** The Game. **11.15** Murdoch Mysteries.

ANIMAL PLANET

Virgin 251

12noon Tanked. **1.00** Pit Bulls & Parolees. **2.00** Cold Blooded Peruvian Predator: Expedition Mungo. **3.00** South American Squatch of Argentina: Expedition Mungo. **4.00** My Cat from Hell. **5.00** Animal Cops Philadelphia. **6.00** Tanked. **7.00** Pit Bulls & Parolees. **8.00** Meet the Orangutans. **9.00** Meet the Penguins. **10.00** Edge of Alaska. **11.00** How Sharks Hunt.

BBC ALBA

Sky 169 Virgin 161

6.00am Alba Today. **5.00pm** Piseag & Cuilean/Kit & Pup. **5.05** Sionnach agus Maigheach. **5.20** Shane an Chef. **5.30** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam. **5.35** Leum is Danns. **5.45** Su Pic. **5.55** Stoiridh. **6.00** An Saoghal Droil aig Pol Ploc/The Rubbish World of Dave Spud. **6.10** @12. **6.15** Na Danathursan aig Tintin/The Adventures of Tintin. **6.40** Damhan & Durrag/Pipas & Douglas. **6.45** Port Paipeir. **7.00** Ceathrar air Chuairt. **7.30** SpeakGaelic. **8.00** An La. **8.30** Eilean Mo Ghaoil. **9.00** Baby Killer? Sgeulachd Jessie King. **10.00** Bannan. **10.35** Billy Graham. **11.30** Mach a Seo!

BBC THREE

Freeview 23 Sky 117

7.00pm Top Gear. **7.00** The Catch Up. **8.00** MOTDx. **8.30** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond. **9.00** The Rap Game UK. **10.05** People Just Do Nothing. **11.35** This Is Amapiano.

BT SPORT 1

Sky 413 Virgin 527

11.30am World Padel Tour. **1.30pm** WSL Championship Tour. **2.30** Live: Hero CPL. **6.45** BT Sport Reload. **7.00** Ligue 1 Show. **7.30** Live UEFA Europa Conference League. RFS v Hearts (Kick-off 8pm). **10.15** Currie Club. **10.45** Premier League — The Big Interview. **11.15** BT Sport Reload. **11.30** MLB Plays of the Week.

BT SPORT 2

Sky 414 Virgin 528

11.15am PTO Triathlon. **12.15pm** ESPN FC. **12.45** WWE Friday Night SmackDown. **2.15** MotoE Highlights. **2.45** ESPN FC. **3.15** Currie Club. **3.45** BT Sport Films. **5.00** What I Wore. **5.15** Live UEFA Europa League. Sheriff Tiraspol v Manchester United (Kick-off 5.45pm). **7.45** Live UEFA Europa Conference League. Silkeborg IF v West Ham United (Kick-off 8pm). **10.30** Live UEFA Europa League Highlights.

BT SPORT 3

Sky 417 Virgin 529

11.30am UEFA Champions League. **4.00pm** UEFA Champions League Tonight. **5.00** ESPN FC Presents: Gab & Juls. **5.30** Live UEFA Europa Conference League. KAA Gent v Shamrock Rovers (Kick-off 5.45pm). **7.45** Live UEFA Europa League. AS Roma v HJK Helsinki (Kick-off 8pm). **10.00** WWE NXT Highlights. **11.00** ESPN FC Presents: Gab & Juls. **11.30** Ligue 1 Show.

COMEDY CENTRAL

Sky 112 Virgin 181

10.55am Friends. **9.00pm** Michael McIntyre's Big Show. **10.00** Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story. **11.00** The Ren & Stimpy Show.

DAVE (DAYTIME)

Freeview 19 Sky 111

12noon Bangers and Cash. **1.00** BorderForce: America's Gatekeepers. **2.00** Top Gear. **3.00** Rick Stein's Secret France. **4.00** Top Gear. **5.00** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. **6.00** Taskmaster.

DISCOVERY

Sky 125 Virgin 250

9.00am The Last Alaskans. **10.00** Ice Lake Rebels. **11.00** Wheeler Dealers. **12noon** Supertruckers. **1.00** Gold Rush: Winter's Fortune. **2.00** Lone Star Law. **3.00** Homestead Rescue: Raney Ranch. **4.00** Alaska: The Last Frontier. **5.00** Wheeler Dealers. **6.00** Kindig Customs. **7.00** Junkyard Empire. **8.00** Railroad Alaska. **9.00** Naked and Afraid XL. **10.00** Naked and Afraid: Alone. **11.00** Yukon Men.

DRAMA (DAYTIME)

Freeview 20 Sky 143 Virgin 130

11.00am Casualty. **12noon** The Bill. **1.00** Classic EastEnders. **2.20** Monarch of the Glen. **3.20** A Place to Call Home. **4.20** All Creatures Great and Small. **5.20** Birds of a Feather. **6.00** Are You Being Served? **6.40** 'Allo 'Allo!

E4 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 13 Sky 135 Virgin 106

10.00am The Big Bang Theory. **11.00** Young Sheldon. **12noon** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. **3.00** Young Sheldon. **4.00** Married at First Sight UK. **5.30** The Big Bang Theory.

EDEN

Sky 166 Virgin 245

12noon Forbidden History. **2.00** Remarkable Rwanda. **3.00** Wild Edens. **5.00** Outback Vet. **6.00** The Zoo. **7.00** Forbidden History. **8.00** Outback Vet. **9.00** Wild Edens. **10.00** The Zoo. **11.00** Forbidden History.

EUROSPORT 1

Sky 410 Virgin 521

8.00am Australian Open Tennis. **9.30** SailGP. **10.00** Cycling: Tour of Slovakia. **11.00** Cycling: Tour of Luxembourg. **12noon** Live Cycling: Wallonie Grand Prix. **1.00** Live Cycling: Tour of Luxembourg. **2.45** Cycling: Tour of Slovakia. **3.00** Live Cycling: Tour of Slovakia. **4.30** Triathlon PTO Tour: U.S. Open Preview. **5.30** Sailing: Spirit of Yachting. **6.00** Climbing World Cup. **7.00** Cycling: Tour of Luxembourg. **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Slovakia. **9.00** SailGP. **9.30** Sports Spotlight. **10.00** Show Jumping. **11.00** Speedway Grand Prix.

FILM4

Freeview 14 Sky 313 Virgin 428

11.00am RED MOUNTAIN. (1951) (PG) 12.45pm THIS HAPPY BREED. (1944) (U) 2.55 DRAGOON WELLS MASSACRE. (1957) (PG) 4.40 MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS. (1971) (PG) 7.15 JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN. (2018) (12) 9.00 INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE. (1989) (PG) 11.35 WIND RIVER. (2017) (15) 1.45am MOFFIE. (2019) (18)

5STAR (DAYTIME)

Freeview 32 Sky 128 Virgin 151

12noon Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law. **1.00** Traffic Cops. **2.00** Police Interceptors. **5.00** Dogs with Extraordinary Friends. **6.00** Home and Away.

5 USA (DAYTIME)

Freeview 21 Sky 141 Virgin 153

12noon Law & Order. **1.55** Entertainment News on 5. **2.00** Law & Order. **4.55** Entertainment News on 5. **5.00** Law & Order. **6.00** NCIS.

FOOD NETWORK UK

Freeview 43 Sky 140 Virgin 285

6.00pm The Great British Bake Off. **8.00** The Hairy Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. **9.00** Michel Roux's French Country Cooking. **10.00** Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook: London. **11.00** Restaurant: Impossible.

GOLD

Sky 110 Virgin 124

12noon 2point4 Children. **12.40** Dad's Army. **1.20** Outnumbered. **2.00** Keeping Up Appearances. **2.40** Last of the Summer Wine. **4.00** Dad's Army. **4.40** Open All Hours. **5.20** Keeping Up Appearances. **6.00** Hi-de-Hi! **6.40** Dad's Army. **8.00** Only Fools and Horses. **8.40** Murder, They Hope. **9.40** Bottom. **11.00** Live at the Apollo.

GREAT! MOVIES

Freeview 34 Sky 321 Virgin 425

12.50pm GREAT! MOVIE NEWS EXTRA. 1.00 SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED. 1.55 GREAT! MOVIE NEWS. 2.01 SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED. 2.50 GREAT! MOVIE NEWS EXTRA. 3.00 IF LOOKS COULD KILL. (2016) (15) 4.45 THE PRESIDENT'S MISTRESS. (1978) (PG) 6.50 THE NET. (1995) (12) 9.00 LONDON HAS FALLEN. (2016) (15) 11.05 DRONE. (2017) (15)

GREAT! MOVIES ACTION

Freeview 42 Sky 323 Virgin 426

11.00am STARSKY & HUTCH. 1.00pm GUN FURY. (1953) (U) 1.55 THIS WEEK BACK THEN. 2.01 GUN FURY. (1953) (U) 2.45 LAST OF THE BADMEN. (1957) (PG) 3.40 THIS WEEK BACK THEN. 3.46 LAST OF THE BADMEN. (1957) (PG) 4.40 FIGHTERS OF WWII. 5.40 SUICIDE MISSION. (1956) (U) 6.35 THIS WEEK BACK THEN. 6.41 SUICIDE MISSION. (1956) (U) 7.10 OCEANS RISING. (2016) (PG) 8.05 THIS WEEK BACK THEN. 8.11 OCEANS RISING. (2016) (PG) 9.00 SAHARA. (1995) (15) 9.55 THIS WEEK BACK THEN. 10.01 SAHARA. (1995) (15) 11.10 BLACK WATER. (2018) (15)

GREAT! CHRISTMAS

Freeview 52 Sky 319 Virgin 424

10.00am Trading Christmas. (2011) (12) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **12noon** A Christmas Cruise. (2017) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **2.00** The Christmas Contract. (2018) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **4.00** A Fairytale Christmas. (2013) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **6.00** Oh Christmas Tree! (2013) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **8.00** The Santa Suit. (2010) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **10.00** The Christmas Switch. (2014) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News.

GREAT! TV

Freeview 50 Sky 157 Virgin 189

1.00pm Body of Proof. **2.00** Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye. **4.00** Murder, She Wrote. **6.00** Hart to Hart. **7.00** M*A*S*H. **9.00** Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). **10.00** The Persuaders! **11.00** Classic Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

ITV2 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 6 Sky 118 Virgin 115

9.00am Veronica Mars. **10.00** One Tree Hill. **11.00** Hart of Dixie. **12noon** Supermarket Sweep. **1.00** Family Fortunes. **2.00** The Masked Singer U.S. **3.05** Veronica Mars. **4.00** One Tree Hill. **5.00** Hart of Dixie. **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase.

ITV3 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 10 Sky 119 Virgin 117

11.30am Heartbeat. **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale. **2.10** Classic Coronation Street. **3.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Theft of the Royal Ruby. **6.00** Heartbeat.

ITV4 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 26 Sky 120 Virgin 118

11.10am The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. **12.20pm** The Saint. **1.25** Match Time Revisited. **2.25** Magnum, PI. **3.30** English Football League Highlights. **5.05** Great Racehorses. **5.30** ITV Racing: Racing League Live.

RADIO 4

FM: 92.4-94.6MHZ; LW: 198KHZ

5.30 News Briefing. 5.43 Prayer for the Day. 5.45 Farming Today. 5.58 Tweet of the Day. 6.00 Today.
9.00 In Our Time. New series. Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.
9.45 (LW) Daily Service.
9.45 (FM) Book of the Week: A Visible Man.
10.00 Woman's Hour.
11.00 Crossing Continents. Sleeplessness in Seoul.
11.30 Once Upon a Time.
12.00 News; (LW) Shipping Forecast.
12.04 You and Yours.
12.30 All Consuming.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.45 Reflections on Majesty. Howard Jacobson reflects on the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II.
2.00 The Archers.
2.15 Drama: Murmuration.
3.00 Ramblings. A sunny hike in the Hampshire countryside around East Worldham.
3.27 Radio 4 Appeal.
3.30 Open Book.
4.00 The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry.
4.30 The Digital Human.
5.00 PM; (LW) Shipping Forecast.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Michael Spicer: Before Next Door. Michael's *Room Next Door* character gets an A-List invite that tests his principles.
7.00 The Archers. Lynda hatches a plan.
7.15 Front Row. Arts news.
8.00 The Briefing Room. Big issues in the news.

PICK OF TODAY'S RADIO

YOUR PLACE OR MINE, 11PM, RADIO 4

JANETTE MANRARA'S bright smile and dazzling dancing on Strictly Come Dancing have livened up many a winter's night. She was born and raised in Miami, Florida, where the sound of surf and salsa and the smell of Cuban coffee fill the air. In this ongoing series in which guests enthuse about the place they call home, Janette (pictured) tries to persuade Shaun Keaveny and his fact-checking assistant, comedian Iszi Lawrence, to visit the Sunshine State. Shaun, though, reveals that he's been there before and, for reasons that become clear, he's not that keen to return.

ITV 3

10

Heartbeat A farming couple go missing, leaving Jenny and Liz to look after their children, while Vernon takes a reluctant Bernie on a mini break to a country hotel

Vera Cleaner Luke Sumner's body is discovered close to his flat in Newcastle, but pathology concludes that the killing blow could have occurred several hours before he succumbed to his injuries, prompting Vera to piece together the victim's final hours in order to investigate his murder

Professor T Jasper befriends a vulnerable girl and is convinced she may be a murder witness, while Lisa agrees to go on a date with Dan

11.05 Professor T An attempt is made on a billionaire's life, and the criminologist thinks the culprit may be much closer to home than the police suspect (To 12.10)

ITV 4

26

5.30 ITV Racing: Racing League Live The Racing League reaches its conclusion with the final seven races of the competition coming from Newcastle, where the team and individual champions will be confirmed. London & The South and Wales & The West look the two most likely to be crowned team champions

World Rally Championship Highlights The Acropolis Rally Greece. Action from the tenth round of the campaign

The Krays (1990,18) Biopic of the infamous twin brothers who built up a criminal empire in the East End of London during the 1960s. Starring Gary and Martin Kemp, Billie Whitelaw and Tom Bell (To 12.30)

MORE 4

18

6.55 Escape to the Chateau Dick Strawbridge passes on his conker skills

7.55 Wondrous Wales A look at the people who live and work in and around the remarkable landscapes of Wales's three national parks, such as fishermen and cattle farmers

Huge Homes with Hugh Dennis A home which exists in the realms of fantasy — boasting a moat, a throne room and the mock ruins of a faux medieval Abbey

24 Hours in A&E Doctors fear a 32-year-old man may have damaged his spine in a 30ft fall from scaffolding

999: On the Front Line A family night in playing board games ends with a man lying unconscious on the kitchen floor. (To 12.05)

PICK

36

Hawaii Five-0 McGarrett and the team head to Mexico where Chin puts his life on the line after his niece Sara is kidnapped

Magnum P.I. Thomas and Higgins help an up-and-coming mixed martial arts fighter under pressure to throw an illegal fight, while Kumu is arrested for stealing an artefact

The Good Doctor Shaun puts his residency in jeopardy during his first solo surgery. Meanwhile, Dr Melendez and Dr Lim have a disagreement

Britain's Most Evil Killers The story of Malcolm Green, who was jailed for life for the brutal murder of a prostitute, only to kill again when he was released after 18 years

World's Most Evil Killers The chilling story of the serial killer who worked as a nurse in Texas, where she killed many children and infants (To 12.00)

QUEST

12

Outback Opal Hunters The Opal Whisperers gamble on a new claim, and the Boulder Boys are slowed down by aging machinery

Salvage Hunters Drew Pritchard scours sites around the UK for potentially valuable scrap items and forgotten remnants

Richard Hammond's Workshop With the costs of the new workshop escalating, Richard plans to sell some of his own cars to help pay for the business

Find It, Fix It, Drive It Henry Cole and Sam Lovegrove fix up vintage vehicles, with the opening edition seeing them track down a 1970s Uncle Bunt motorcycle

British Superbikes Championships Highlights of all the action from Round 3 at the British Superbikes Championships at Oulton Park (To 12.00)

DAVE

19

Richard Osman's House of Games With Nish Kumar, Clara Amfo and Al Murray

7.40 Room 101 With Gyles Brandreth, Adam Hills and Melanie C

8.20 Would I Lie to You? With Dermot O'Leary, Mel Giedroyc, Josh Widdicombe and Matt Dawson

QI XL Question-master Stephen Fry probes the subject of Messing with Your Mind, with Sarah Millican, Tommy Tiernan, Josh Widdicombe and Alan Davies

Late Night Mash Rachel Parris hosts and is joined by guests to deliver topical insights and fake news reports from a dystopian universe known as modern Britain

Question Team Making up Richard Ayoade's self-quizzing collective are Jo Brand, Thanyia Moore, Josh Pugh and special guest Bill Bailey (To 12.00)

DRAMA

20

7.20 Last of the Summer Wine The trio's curiosity is aroused when they encounter a man with an inflatable doll

Judge John Deed A doctor is accused of murdering a seriously ill patient with a morphine overdose, a case which echoes a dilemma in Deed's personal life and sets him on the path to potential ruin. Charlie's HIV-positive friend finds herself in danger of losing her baby to Social Services, and calls on the judge for help. Drama, starring Martin Shaw

New Tricks The team reopen the case of a pub landlord killed in a fire, officially ruled as suicide. The veterans wonder why, however, his live-in barmaid disappeared

11.20 Spooks Team members unearth an assassination plot when they are posted undercover at the heart of the World Trade Summit for Africa (To 12.40)

5STAR

32

Bargain Brits on Benefits Cameras follow folks whose clever ideas and savvy schemes save them a small fortune

Dirty Home Rescue Cleaning expert Hayley Leitch and her team of professional cleaners answer SOS calls from Britain's filthiest houses

Killer at the Crime Scene Documentary about forensics teams, looking at the cutting edge techniques that have been used to solve infamous crimes

The Railway Killers As the police work through more than 3000 potential suspects, a woman goes missing. When her body is discovered, detectives have no doubt that she is the third victim (To 12.00)

5 USA

21

NCIS The team try to locate a kidnapped girl but has to contend with her grandfather, a former member of a disbanded special forces unit who interferes in the case

NCIS The team investigate what at first appears to be a robbery, until Tony discovers a homeowner lied to police after shooting the intruder

Criminal Minds When murders are connected to a serial killer who was executed a year ago, the agents discover a copycat murderer is continuing his work

Criminal Minds Agents Prentiss and Reid are taken hostage while working undercover at the compound of a secret cult that is raided by federal agents

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Fertilised embryos are stolen from a sperm bank

11.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Benson goes undercover (To 12.55)

ITVBE

Freeview 28 Sky 131 Virgin 119

9.00am LittleBe. **12noon** Be Beautiful. **12.10** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. **1.10** The Real Housewives of Jersey. **2.10** The Only Way Is Essex. **3.10** Million Dollar Listing: NYC. **4.05** The Real Housewives of Orange County. **5.00** The Real Housewives of Potomac. **6.00** Masters of Flip. **7.00** Buying and Selling. **8.00** Dinner Date. **9.00** Ferne McCann: First Time Mum. **10.00** Love Island USA. **11.00** Vanderpump Rules. **12midnight** The Only Way Is Essex.

MORE4 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 18 Sky 136 Virgin 147

11.05am Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **1.10pm** Heir Hunters. **2.10** Four in a Bed. **4.50** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **5.55** Car S.O.S. **6.55** Escape to the Chateau.

NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC

Sky 129 Virgin 266

12noon WWI Wrecks: Draining the Ocean. **1.00** Ultimate Airport Dubai. **2.00** Air Crash Investigation. **4.00** Ice Road Rescue. **5.00** Car S.O.S. **6.00** Engineering New York Super Airport. **7.00** Air Crash Investigation. **8.00** Europe from Above. **9.00** Wicked Tuna. **10.00** To Catch a Smuggler. **11.00** Air Crash Investigation.

PBS AMERICA

Freeview 84 Sky 174 Virgin 273

12noon Nazi Hunters. **1.00** The Last Voices of World War One. **2.00** The Atom and Us. **3.15** The Silk Road. **4.25** The Last Voices of World War One. **5.25** Nazi Hunters. **6.25** The Atom and Us. **7.35** The Silk Road. **8.50** The Last Voices of World War One. **9.50** Nazi Hunters. **10.45** The Silk Road.

PICK (DAYTIME)

Freeview 36 Sky 159 Virgin 156

12noon Road Wars. **1.00** Border Patrol. **2.00** Nothing to Declare. **4.00** Stargate SG-1. **5.00** Star Trek: Enterprise. **6.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.

QUEST (DAYTIME)

Freeview 12 Sky 144

10.00am Chasing Classic Cars. **11.00** Fantomworks. **12noon** Scrap Kings. **1.00** Money for Nothing. **2.00** The Repair Shop. **3.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **4.00** Salvage Hunters. **5.00** Salvage Hunters: Classic Cars. **6.00** Wheeler Dealers.

REALLY

Freeview 17 Sky 142 Virgin 128

12noon Money for Nothing. **1.00** The Hotel Inspector: The Walkout. **2.00** Animal Cops Houston. **4.00** Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet. **5.00** Ambulance. **6.00** Money for Nothing. **7.00** Antiques Road Trip. **9.00** Paranormal: Caught on Camera. **10.00** The Osbournes Want to Believe. **11.00** Ghost Adventures.

SKY ARTS

Freeview 11 Sky 130 Virgin 165

12noon Cezanne: Portraits of a Life. **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected. **2.00** Boswell & Johnson's Scottish Road Trip. **3.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2014. **4.00** Discovering: Joan Fontaine. **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected. **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents. **7.00** Discovering: Robert Donat. **8.00** Lenny Henry's Got the Blues. **9.00** The Directors. **10.00** Discovering: George Clooney. **11.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents.

■ RICHARD OSMAN as returned to his life of crime, and he joins **PENNY SMITH (4PM, SCALA RADIO)** to give us some clues about the third instalment of his Thursday Murder Club series, which is called The Bullet That Missed. Richard also talks about Stephen Spielberg's adaptation of his first Thursday Murder Club novel, then picks some of the classical music he listens to when he's writing.

8.30 The Blind Astronomer. Wanda Diaz-Merced and her work with sound.
9.00 BBC Inside Science. The latest research.
9.30 In Our Time. See 9am.
9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Reflections on Majesty. Poet Imtiaz Dharker reflects on the reign of Elizabeth II.
11.00 PICK **Your Place or Mine.**
11.30 The Digital Human. Considering potential downsides of the latest innovations.
12.00 News and Weather. 12.30 Book of the Week: A Visible Man. By Edward Enninful. **12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As BBC World Service.**

RADIO 2 FM: 88-90.2MHZ

6.30 Zoe Ball Breakfast Show. **9.30** Ken Bruce. **12.00** Jeremy Vine. **2.00** Steve Wright. **5.00** Sara Cox. **7.00** Jo Whiley. **9.00** Her Majesty's Music. **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. **12.00** OJ Borg.

RADIO 3 FM: 90.2-92.4MHZ

6.30 Breakfast. **9.00** Essential Classics. **12.00** Composer of the Week: Bruckner. **1.00** Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. **2.00** Afternoon Concert. **5.00** In Tune. **7.00** In Tune Mixtape. **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert. Pianist Andreas Haefliger at the Edinburgh International Festival. **10.00** Free Thinking. Exploring ideas about immortality. **10.45** The Essay: Sign Language Is My Language. **11.00** The Night Tracks Mix. **11.30** Unclassified. **12.30** Through the Night.

RADIO 5 LIVE MW: 693/909KHZ

5.00 Wake Up to Money. **6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** Nicky Campbell. **11.00** Adrian Chiles. **1.00** Nick Bright. **4.00** 5 Live Drive. **7.00** 5 Live Sport. **7.30** 5 Live Tennis: Davis Cup. **8.00** WSL preview. **9.00** The Euro Leagues Podcast. **10.00** Colin Murray. **1.00** Dotun Adebayo.

SKY ATLANTIC

Sky 108

10.00am The Sopranos. **12.15pm** Ray Donovan. **2.25** Game of Thrones. **3.30** Boardwalk Empire. **5.45** The Sopranos. **7.55** Game of Thrones. **9.00** I Hate Suzie. **9.45** The Staircase. **11.00** House of the Dragon.

SKY COMEDY

Sky 114 Virgin 135

12.45pm Los Espookys. **2.30** The Office (US). **3.00** Will & Grace. **4.00** Modern Family. **5.00** The Office (US). **5.30** Futurama. **6.30** Everybody Hates Chris. **7.30** The Office (US). **9.00** Intelligence. **10.00** Bloods. **10.30** Sex and the City. **11.45** The Late Late Show with James Corden.

SKY DOCUMENTARIES

Sky 121 Virgin 278

12noon Chernobyl: The Lost Tapes. **1.50** FILM: My Name Is Francesco Totti. (2020) (12) **4.00** The Directors. **5.00** Discovering: Peter Finch. **6.00** The 2000s. **6.50** Allen v. Farrow. **8.00** The Vietnam War. **9.00** Chaos in Kabul: Escaping the Taliban. **10.00** FILM: The Longest War. (2020) (15) **11.40** Premier League Legends.

SKY DRAMA

Sky 310 Virgin 410

10.15am LITTLE VOICE. (1998) (15) 12.10pm DIRTY PRETTY THINGS. (2002) (15) 1.50 THE DANISH GIRL. (2015) (15) 3.55 JUNGLELAND. (2019) (15) 5.30 INTO THE WILD. (2007) (15) 8.00 ERIN BROCKOVICH. (2000) (15) 10.15 DIRTY DANCING 2: HAVANA NIGHTS. (2004) (PG) 11.45 LET HIM GO. (2020) (15)

SKY HISTORY

Sky 123 Virgin 270

1.00pm Weird or What? with William Shatner. **2.00** Highway Thru Hell. **3.00** Pawn Stars. **4.00** River Hunters Special. **5.00** Ross Kemp: Shipwreck Treasure Hunter. **6.00** American Pickers. **7.00** Forged in Fire. **8.00** Pawn Stars. **9.00** Forged in Fire. **10.00** Alone: Polar Bear Island. **11.30** The American Presidency with Bill Clinton.

SKY MAX

Sky 113 Virgin 121

1.00pm Hawaii Five-0. **2.00** MacGyver. **3.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow. **4.00** The Flash. **5.00** Supergirl. **6.00** Stargate SG-1. **8.00** An Idiot Abroad 2. **9.00** A League of Their Own. **10.00** COBRA: Cyberwar. **11.00** Rob & Romesh vs Ballet.

SKY PREMIERE

Sky 301 Virgin 401

11.45am A JOURNAL FOR JORDAN. (2021) (12) 2.00pm LAST LOOKS. (2021) (15) 4.10 EVEN MICE BELONG IN HEAVEN. (2021) (PG) 5.50 THE 355. (2022) (12) 8.00 BELFAST. (2021) (12) 10.00 JACKASS FOREVER. (2022) (18) 11.50 SCREAM. (2022) (18)

SKY SCI-FI

Sky 152 Virgin 139

12noon Star Trek: Enterprise. **2.00** Futurama. **3.00** Fringe. **4.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. **5.00** Stargate SG-1. **6.00** Star Trek: Enterprise. **8.00** Manifest. **9.00** FILM: Christine. (1983) (18) **11.10** A Discovery of Witches.

SKY WITNESS

Sky 107 Virgin 112

12noon 9-1-1. **1.00** FBI. **2.00** Blue Bloods. **3.00** The Equalizer. **4.00** Paramedics Australia. **5.00** Nothing to Declare. **8.00** Blue Bloods. **9.00** FBI. **10.00** Criminal Minds. **11.00** The Equalizer.

SKY MAIN EVENT

Sky 401 Virgin 511

10.45am Live Rugby Championship. **12.40pm** Live DP World Tour Golf. **5.30** Sky Sports News. **6.00** Live Women's International T20 Cricket. England v India. **10.00** Live LPGA Tour Golf. The Portland Classic. **11.00** Live PGA Tour Golf. The Fortinet Championship. **12.30am** Live NFL. Chiefs v Chargers.

SKY PREMIER LEAGUE

Sky 402 Virgin 512

12noon Gary Neville's Soccerbox. **1.00** Premier League Years. **3.00** Greatest Games. **4.00** Best Goals. **5.00** 100 Club. **5.30** Inside The WSL. **6.00** Lionesses Special: Their Story. **7.00** The Big Interview. **7.30** Premier League Stories. **8.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox. **9.00** The Big Interview. **9.30** Premier League Stories. **10.00** PL Icons. **10.30** PL Retro.

SKY FOOTBALL

Sky 403 Virgin 513

12noon EFL. **12.15** EFL Goals. **12.45** EFL. **1.00** EFL. **3.00** Bundesliga. **4.00** EFL. **6.00** Bundesliga. **6.30** Inside The WSL: Beth Mead Special. **7.00** Lionesses Special: Their Story. **8.00** EFL. **8.30** Bundesliga. **9.00** EFL Goals. **9.30** EFL. **10.30** Bundesliga. **11.00** EFL Greatest Games.

SKY CRICKET

Sky 404 Virgin 514

9.30am Talking Cricket. **10.00** Best of KP. **11.30** Shaun Pollock: Bowling Masterclass. **12noon** Best of England v South Africa. **12.25** Best of the ICC Women's World Cup. **12.55** Live DPL. **5.00** Best of the ICC Women's World Cup. **5.15** Women's World T20 Classics. **6.00** Live Women's International T20 Cricket. **10.00** Talking Cricket. **10.30** Graeme Swann Spin Bowling Clinic. **11.00** Best of England v South Africa.

SKY MIX

Sky 416 Virgin 520

12.45pm Women's Super League. **1.30** Betfred Super League. **2.00** Fighting Fit 2020. **3.30** My Icon. **4.00** Sail GP. **7.30** Top Rank Boxing Archive. **8.00** Live LPGA Tour Golf. **11.00** DP World Tour Golf.

SMITHSONIAN

Freeview 57 Sky 171 Virgin 276

12noon Aerial America. **1.00** The Pacific War in Colour. **3.00** America in Colour. **4.00** The Hunt for Escobar's Hippos. **5.00** Miami Wild. **6.00** Aerial America. **8.00** Inside the Factory. **9.00** How Did They Build That? **10.00** Ice Airport Alaska. **11.00** How Did They Build That?

TALKING PICTURES TV

Freeview 82 Sky 328 Virgin 445

11.15am FILM: The Keys of the Kingdom. (1944) (PG) **2.00pm** Hannay. **3.00** FILM: Sammy Going South. (1963) (U) **5.20** FILM: Dick Barton: Special Agent. (1948) (U) **6.45** FILM: The Plank. (1967) (U) **7.50** Discover Britain by Train. **8.00** The Saint. **9.00** Justice. **10.00** The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes. **11.00** Widows.

TCM

Sky 315 Virgin 415

8.15am CHEYENNE. 9.15 TO TRAP A SPY. (1966) (PG) 11.15 CHEYENNE. 1.30pm ONE SPY TOO MANY. (1966) (PG) 3.40 THE SEARCHERS. (1956) (U) 6.05 SOUTH OF DEATH VALLEY. (1949) (U) 7.15 MURDER, SHE SAID. (1961) (PG) 9.00 DIRTY HARRY. (1971) (15) 11.10 EQUILIBRIUM. (2002) (15) 1.20am A THUNDER OF DRUMS. (1961) (PG)

W

Sky 132 Virgin 125

11.00am Inside the Ambulance: Coast and Country. **2.00pm** Tipping Point. **4.00** My Dream Home. **5.00** Property Brothers: Forever Homes. **7.00** MasterChef Australia. **9.00** Emma Willis: Meet the Babies. **10.00** Nurses on the Ward. **11.00** Inside the Ambulance: Coast and Country.

YESTERDAY

Freeview 27 Sky 155 Virgin 129

12noon The Architecture the Railways Built. **1.00** Bangers and Cash. **2.00** Abandoned Engineering. **4.00** War Factories. **5.00** The World at War. **6.00** The Architecture the Railways Built. **7.00** Abandoned Engineering. **8.00** Bangers and Cash. **9.00** Train Truckers. **10.00** Bangers and Cash. **11.00** Abandoned Engineering.

OSCAR CAINER

THE philosopher Joseph de Maistre said that 'every nation gets the Government it deserves', which seems slightly unfair. Imperfect as democracy might be, the alternatives seem worse. Maybe I'm naive, but I still believe in its power: that collective investment is better than authoritarian control. As the Sun prepares to oppose Neptune, inspiring ideas are on the agenda. We can aspire to a better world.

ARIES Mar 21 - Apr 20 **THERE'S a lot of tension and drama going on in your world. No change there. Your ability to juggle and keep going is impressive. But if you had more space, you'd be aware of all that there is to appreciate too. Although the carefree time you're craving feels impossible, it's not. You just need to let go of some of the heavy, burdensome thoughts you're carrying. Even if you can't stop them from popping into your head, you can refuse to let them dominate. Making room for good things in your mind will help them happen in your life.** *Do you need support? Call your weekly forecast: 0906 751 5601.*

TAURUS Apr 21 - May 21 MARTIN Luther King said 'we must learn to live beside each other as brothers or we must perish together as fools'. As he knew only too well, achieving peaceful co-existence isn't easy. It doesn't happen overnight. Learning to privilege peace over conflict and other people above ourselves is challenging. We need to access our inner stores of generosity. And know that if we get it wrong, we can try again. If you can meet those around you with kindness and respect, you'll gain much more than you give. You're shining bright. *Live life to the full. There is helpful advice and pleasing news in your latest forecast. Call 0906 751 5602.*

GEMINI May 22 - June 22 **PEOPLE think that time is like a road. At any given moment, you can only be on one part of it. But the bit that's behind you is still there and so is the bit you're moving towards. We've got clear ideas about this complex topic. But what do we really know? With your ruler, Mercury, in retrograde motion, you're repeating a bit of yesterday which is frustrating: you want to be moving forwards. But you're being offered an opportunity to rewrite your history. And that will change the course of your future, in a very good way.** *Your latest forecast contains inspiring news. Call 0906 751 5603.*

CANCER June 23 - July 23 WHEN kids learn to ride a bike, they start with stabilisers. These enable the aspiring rider to zoom around, building confidence, so that when the extra wheels are removed they can balance themselves and cycle without any assistance. We all appreciate having crutches to lean on when we're out of our comfort zones. And we know the feeling of achievement when we realise we don't need them any more. But there's no point kicking away something that's helping you. *Need to change something in your world? Your latest four-minute forecast tells you how. Call 0906 751 5604.*

LEO July 24 - Aug 23 **'... which is why you need to take it less seriously'. I'm starting your prediction with the end of a sentence because I know you've got something on your mind and I want to grab your attention before you turn it back to the issue that's preoccupying you. You're only interested in one thing. And as soon as I reveal that I haven't got much to say about it, you'll be off. If you've made it this far, I might as well tell you that you're giving too much energy to a matter that's sorting itself. Now... how did this start?** *What's the best way to move forward and ensure success? Call your weekly forecast: 0906 751 5605.*

VIRGO Aug 24 - Sep 23 NOT only do you have the power to make things happen, you understand the importance of knowing how to do something before trying to do it. This might sound obvious, but we've all found ourselves in situations where we're forced to 'wing it' — with varying degrees of success. Yet since you're modest enough to stand back and learn, you've experienced some excellent teaching... which is why you're more than qualified to take on an instructive role to help other people to work towards a goal. *There is helpful advice in your latest four-minute forecast. Call 0906 751 5606.*

LIBRA Sep 24 - Oct 23 **THE saying 'everything happens for a reason' is only reassuring when we think that the reason is good. But if you look at the way things have transpired in your world recently, it's hard to see that this is the case. You're grappling with the outcome of what seems to be a wrong decision. And it's not proving easy to sort out. As the Sun prepares to link to inspiring Neptune, it brings an opportunity to change your views about what seems to be going wrong. You'll soon realise just how well you've done.** *Your latest, in-depth four-minute forecast contains inspiring news. Call 0906 751 5607.*

SCORPIO Oct 24 - Nov 22 HIT movies have huge budgets. Best-selling books only cost their author's time. (They also, of course, take talent and that's priceless). But that doesn't detract from the fact that we don't need money to achieve great things. It's so easy to busy ourselves rather than focus on creative ideas. Yet if we don't put the effort in, we'll never know what we could accomplish. Your imagination is being inspired now. Stop doubting yourself and give yourself permission to stop dreaming of success, and start making it happen. *Need to change something? Your latest forecast tells you how. Call 0906 751 5608.*

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23 - Dec 21 **THE hunt for happiness is inherent in every human being. We're all on a mission to find fulfilment. It must also be said that we do a lot of ridiculous things to undermine our chances of finding what we want. We can be inextricably drawn towards trouble. It would be easy to push away your desire to step away from a tricky situation. After all, part of you is intrigued by the drama. Yet if you move away from a source of stress, you'll experience a genuine sense of peace.** *What's the best way to ensure success? Call your weekly forecast: 0906 751 5609.*

CAPRICORN Dec 22 - Jan 20 OUR fixation with the world of celebrity is worth billions of dollars. We all have our famous favourites. From pop divas to film stars to reality TV winners, we love finding out about their lives. But what do we love most? We love watching them fall off their pedestals and revealing that yes... just like us, they have bad hair days. You don't need anyone to point out your faults. But you do need to be reminded of your star quality. Other people know how special you are. Enjoy being appreciated today. *Live life to the full. There is helpful advice and pleasing news in your latest four-minute forecast. Call 0906 751 5610.*

AQUARIUS Jan 21 - Feb 19 **JUST because you had a great sleep a couple of nights ago, doesn't mean you don't need one tonight. Similarly, if you had a substantial meal yesterday, you still need to eat well today. Some of our needs must be regularly addressed. You've been put in a position which reminds you of a past success... and you're tempted to try to relive that experience. But rather than focusing on what happened then, concentrate on what's going to happen next. You've got the skills to make exciting things happen.** *Your latest forecast contains inspiring news. Call 0906 751 5611.*

PISCES Feb 20 - Mar 20 WHEN we look in a mirror, we see what the rest of the world sees... don't we? Not quite. Grab a letter and look at its reflection. Can you make head or tail of it? Unless you're adept at reading back-to-front, probably not. So it's not surprising that we misread people's views of us. Try not to draw conclusions on the basis of back-to-front logic today. You think you know what someone thinks about you. But as your ruler, Neptune, and the Sun prepare to link, surprising insight will change your understanding. *Your latest four-minute forecast tells you how. Call 0906 751 5612.*

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PETERBOROUGH

email: pboro@dailymail.co.uk

L-plates Queen was a hit behind wheel

THE article about how the Queen learned to drive while in the ATS during World War II struck a chord with me.

My late father Reginald Luke Williams was one of only a handful of men transferred to the same unit as the then Princess Elizabeth. He became her personal driving instructor and vehicle maintenance instructor.

His favourite story was that he was the only man to have 'hit' the future Queen and still retain his head! He would tap her on the leg if she left her foot on the clutch or on the hand if she rested it on the gear stick. 'I would go up to the big house to collect her for lessons in the vehicle she was being trained on that day,' he would relate to us.

'One time the then Queen answered the door and invited me in for a cup of tea as the Princess was not quite ready.'

In the 1950s, Elizabeth II visited Hereford where my father lived. He was invited to the town hall reception to meet her again.

On seeing him, she shook his hand, saying: 'Hello, Reg, or should I say Mr Williams, and how are you?'

He repeated the story to me so often I remember it word for word.

Robert R. Williams, Hereford.

Out Of The Mouths Of Babes

MY DAUGHTER told her five-year-old twin boys the sad news about the Queen because she wanted to forewarn them before the headmaster's assembly the next day. The boys listened intently and then prepared for bed. Some time later, Joshua began to cry.

When asked what was the matter, he replied: 'I never got to meet the Queen!' My daughter responded: 'Well, your Nanny and Grandad didn't either, and they were around when she became Queen. But maybe you will get to meet the new King.'

Joshua instantly cheered up.

Ian Stromdale, Wokingham, Berks.

It's All In The Name!

I CHANGED my job just after I got married and moved away from my home town.

The gentleman on the desk next to mine introduced himself as Chris Hog and stared at me in amazement when I burst into laughter.

I explained that though I was Mrs Pegg, if my father-in-law hadn't changed his surname, I'd have been Mrs Pigg.

Marie Pegg, Aylsham, Norfolk.

One-line Philosophers

■ TIME is everything when life ticks by.

Warren Brown, Falmouth, Cornwall.

■ SAVE the Earth! It's the only planet with chocolate.

Paul Carter, Stafford.

Picture that!

PURPLE REIGN: *My daughter Cara, age nine, created this collage in tribute to the Queen.*

Neil Bedford, Salisbury, Wilts.

Sign language

BROWN IS THE NEW BLUE: *Identify however you like. Spotted in Bicester by V. Webb of Oxford.*

Wordy Wise

THE SPICY ISLANDS — hot archipelago.

THE SILLY ISLES — childish island group.

THE HEBRIDGES — male road and rail links between Scottish islands.

THE SHUTLANDS — Scottish no-go areas.

THE CHANEL ISLANDS — pleasantly scented English-speaking group off the French coast.

THE SPYCHELLES — a group of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean producing top secret agents.

THE FEAST INDIES — exotic islands that are famed for their banquets.

Dave Cullen, Leeds, W. Yorks.

Today's poem

ELIZABETH

The Queen has left but not alone,
She took with her our love,
She will be mourned around the world
And welcomed by those above.

Her smile will light the astral way,
The stars will move aside,
Elizabeth, our Gracious Queen
Who gave this Nation pride.

She never flinched, no backward step,
Her duty, very plain,
To serve her people through thick and thin,
Til her strength began to wane.

Fifteen Prime Ministers shook her hand,
But the latest was the last,
That smile was there for all to see,
Now her flags are flown half-mast.

She was our Queen, she served us well,
But please remember this,
She was a mum and granny, too,
Like us they'll reminisce.

The monarchy will, of course, go on,
You set the standard high,
Tonight, the heavens have your star,
The brightest in the sky.

Charlie Horner, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex.

Limerick

Through war, celebration and strife,
As monarch, as mother, as wife,
To her Platinum fate
Queen Elizabeth the Great
Gave her heart and her soul all her life.

Bethan Morgan, Swansea.

■ SEND your contributions to Peterborough, Daily Mail Letters, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT

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Non-stop scrutiny

THOSE of us who have followed the hearse of a loved one know how difficult it is emotionally.

I can't comprehend how Princess Anne must have felt walking behind her mother's coffin for such a long time. I salute her and her supportive husband Tim Laurence.

We can empathise with the grief expressed by the Royal Family as many of us have been down that path, but theirs has been prolonged because it has been in the public eye.

They deserve our support because the public scrutiny has been non-stop. We have to remember they are only human.

Liz Truss was criticised for a breach of protocol by touching Charles's arm, but it probably did him more good than we can possibly imagine.

JOSEPH WALMSLEY, Bury, Gtr Manchester.

Unbreakable Union

WHAT a display Scotland put on in recognition of the love and devotion the Queen had for that majestic country. Perhaps now it will be realised that when it comes to the crunch, the majority of Scots truly feel part of the UK.

I believe any future attempt by Nicola Sturgeon to dismantle the Union won't succeed. We're a team, a success story and need each other.

SUSAN DANCE, Harrogate, N. Yorks.

Circus of Parliament

A LEGACY of our late, great Queen is the love and togetherness we are witnessing at this time. It would be wonderful if our MPs conducted themselves similarly and more professionally when they return to the cauldron of Westminster.

I understand party politicking, but am tired of the rudeness and abuse across the Dispatch Box.

The circus of Parliament causes division, which has been refreshingly absent this week.

MEL PINNOCK, Glemsford, Suffolk.

IS IT naive to hope that a fraction of the Queen's selfless dedication to duty, honour and sense of right and wrong will rub off on politicians?

MARK WILLCOCK, Sheffield.

Respect silence

THE BBC coverage of events since the passing of the Queen has been superb. However, I am irritated by the incessant commentary during the journey of the cortege.

I used the mute button, but would have preferred to hear the near silent plod of the procession and the crowd's respectful reaction.

During the state funeral, I hope the commentators pipe down and leave us to our private thoughts.

HARRY HAYSHAM, Chelmsford, Essex.

I AGREE the BBC coverage has been extensive and comprehensive, but I am suffering from information overload and a sense of tedium. There is constant repetition of words and pictures.

So, for me it's time to switch off until the day of the state funeral.

I fear that hundreds of thousands will make a fruitless journey to Westminster Hall to view the Queen's lying in state.

It will be a slow process as people shuffle through the hall, pausing to take in the scene and atmosphere. I assume the police will cut off the queue at some point and tell people to go home.

We should remember that our personal thoughts for the Queen are no less worthy whether we are watching on TV or have queued for hours.

R. HAVENHAND, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Show more dignity

AS THE royals viewed the floral tributes at the palaces, some in the crowd could not contain their excitement. They were there to show their respect at the Queen's passing, but clearly quickly forgot that.

The racing at Doncaster started with a minute's silence and the programme was dedicated to the Queen's love of horses.

Even though this is supposed to be a time of national mourning, there were ladies dressed to the nines and many of the racegoers were waving at the cameras as if to say: 'Ey up, I'm on t'telly!'

DAVID PATRICK MOORE, Beckenham, Gtr London.

Elizabeth The Great

HISTORY will know our Queen as Elizabeth The Great.

Not only for the length of her glorious reign, but for her wisdom, steadfast values, devotion to duty and service to her people in the UK and the Commonwealth.

With the love and support of Camilla, and the steadfastness of the Royal Family, King Charles will find his own path, and we will be there beside him.

KIM WILKENING, Margate, Kent.

CELEBRATE LIFE OF A LOVED ONE

HAVE you lost a relative or friend in recent months whose life you'd like to celebrate? Our column on Friday's letters page tells the stories of ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives. Email a 500-word tribute and a favourite photo to: *lives@dailymail.co.uk* **or write to: Extraordinary Lives, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT. Please include a phone number.**

I still treasure my Coronation doll

1953: Val aged nine

I WAS nine years old when the Queen was crowned and my mum and aunt bought me a magnificent Coronation doll. She came by post from Holland and cost £5, a lot of money in those days. Goodness knows how they could afford it. Seventy years on, she's a little worse for wear having been played with a lot. She no longer sings the National Anthem, her hair is bedraggled and I've had to make her a replacement crown, but I will always treasure my doll.

VAL BAKER, Torquay, Devon.

Today: Val and doll

Vigil was poignant, dignified and perfect

WHAT a moving sight to behold: the procession flanked by soldiers and bowmen, with the King and his siblings following behind the hearse en route to St Giles' Cathedral. The Royal Mile in Edinburgh was lined by a huge gathering of silent onlookers.
I became emotional watching this on TV, full of sorrow for the passing of the Queen and proud of our nation. We are the only county in the world that could stage such a dignified ceremony.
The day's solemn events culminated in the Vigil of the Princes by the Queen's four children — what a mark of respect. Her Majesty was my 'boss' for the 19 years I served in the RAF and though long retired, I would gladly answer our King's call to arms.

ROBIN KIRKHAM, Swaffham, Norfolk.

I WAS holding it together during the TV coverage of the procession in Edinburgh, but when Charles and his three siblings stood vigil on each side of their beloved mother's coffin, that just did it for me and the tears welled up. What a beautiful gesture, all four of them stoically mourning and protecting their mother. I will never forget that moment.

ANN FIELD, Manchester.

I WOULD like to thank the Scottish people for their truly wonderful tribute to the Queen on her journey from Balmoral to Edinburgh. What was remarkable was the respect and silence of the crowds at the roadside. The Queen loved her summer holidays in Balmoral. Scotland was where she really felt at home and, looking at the countryside along the route of her last journey, you can see why.

Mrs A. PORTER, Darlington, Co. Durham.

Picture: PA

Vigil of the Princes: King Charles and his siblings guard the Queen's coffin

I JOINED the thousands of folk who thronged the funeral route to show my respect. What struck me immediately when I joined the massive queues on the streets of Aberdeen was the warm and friendly atmosphere. People of all ages had made the effort to say goodbye to our amazing Queen who showed total dedication. It was truly a day to remember for the rest of my life.

DENNIS FORBES GRATTAN, Aberdeen.

I WAS disappointed that when King Charles and his siblings took their places at the vigil in St Giles' Cathedral, they were not afforded just a few minutes away from the scrutiny of the public filing past the coffin. Surely that was the time to close the doors and turn off the cameras.

ANGELA DAVIS, Ferring, W. Sussex.

Straight to the POINT

■ **I WAS shocked that when the cortege arrived at Buckingham Palace, some in the crowd clapped and whooped. Disrespectful, superficial, inconsiderate and showing a lack of understanding. Alas, a sign of the times.**

ARTHUR BURROWS, Ulverston, Cumbria.

■ **HOW appropriate: the Queen remembered on The One Show.**

NICK WOOTTON, Wallasey, Wirral.

■ **ANDREW and Harry fought for their country, but are the only senior royals forbidden to wear uniform at the Queen's funeral.**

RICK FREE, Brightling, E. Sussex.

■ **PRINCE Edward is looking more and more like his grandfather, George VI.**

VIRGINIA HALES, Portstewart, Co. Londonderry.

■ **I HOPE the new King grants his brother Edward and sister-in-law Sophie the titles of Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh to recognise the support they gave to the Queen.**

CHRISTINE MACTAGGART, Bicester, Oxon.

■ **I HAVE criticised the BBC for its politically correct coverage, but its reporting of the death of the Queen and accession of King Charles has been extraordinarily professional.**

MICHAEL J. PRITCHARD, Penn, Bucks.

■ **WHY do official singers at sports events insist on singing the last two notes of the National Anthem an octave higher than the set music?**

ANNE FIRM, Rushden, Northants.

■ **ANTIGUA is to hold a referendum to leave the Commonwealth. Oh well, another destination off the holiday list.**

BOB TERRY, Thanet, Kent.

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Musical tribute

BBC Radio 2 pulled out all the stops after the announcement of the Queen's death. They drafted in the grown-up presenters, the music has been perfect and the inane chatter absent, thank goodness.

Ken Bruce, as always, was excellent while Paddy O'Connell and Tony Blackburn were a delight.

I just wish the station would continue to take note of what the listeners really want and stop trying to be Radio 1.

JANE O'SULLIVAN, Helston, Cornwall.

Stand to attention

THE Queen's smile could put you at ease, no matter the situation. In 1973, I was a soldier in the Royal Army Medical Corps, based at a military hospital in London, and was detailed to attend Trooping the Colour for ceremonial medical cover.

I was standing near the Guards Memorial watching the parade. Her Majesty, riding side-saddle on her horse, was slowly coming towards me. I was so mesmerised by her resplendent appearance that I forgot to stand to attention until I was reminded. The Queen caught my eye and I feared the worst. But she smiled at me and put me at ease, before continuing to inspect her soldiers.

ANTHONY DUNFORD, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Witness to history

AGED 19, I had the honour and privilege of being part of the guard of honour at the proclamation of accession of Elizabeth II at the Royal Exchange in the City of London in 1952.

As a private with 326 (City of London) battalion, WRAC, we marched from Finsbury Barracks behind the Scots Guards and the Company of Pikemen & Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company.

Mrs P. M. SAWYER, Wisbech, Cambs.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

WIN our Letter Of The Week Magic Mug, courtesy of Printer Pix. These reveal our Daily Mail Letter Of The Week design when hot. To create personalised photo gifts (see example, right), visit printerpix.co.uk. The Letters Editor will announce the Letter Of The Week each Friday. Write to: Daily Mail, Letters, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT or email letters@dailymail.co.uk, including your full postal address and telephone number.

Printerpix

DEBATE

Should anti-royalist protesters be arrested?

**I QUESTION the policing of anti-monarchist protests at events to mark the Queen's passing.
A young man who shouted at Prince Andrew on the Royal Mile was dragged away by members of the public and arrested.
Regardless of where you stand on the monarchy, I am concerned by what appears to be heavy-handed policing. The right for people to express their views peacefully is fundamental to democracy.**

ALEX ORR, Edinburgh.

WHAT sort of person shouts abuse at a man following his mother's hearse?

DAVID ALLEN, Runcorn, Merseyside.

**THE anti-monarchists complaining about their arrest have fallen back on the argument that they have a right to protest and to prevent them is an affront to democracy. They are trying to blur the legalities around protest and disruption by conflating them.
In a democracy we all have the right to protest. What we do not have is the right to disrupt the legitimate business of other members of society. To call for the abolition of the monarchy in the middle of national mourning impacts on the right of others to express their grief and respect.**

GRAHAM TAYLOR, Greenhithe, Kent.

I SHARE Andrew Marr's grievance (Mail) that an anti-royalist was arrested for protesting in Edinburgh. The police response is an infringement of our democratic right to protest and runs counter to a society built on tolerance. Though I support the royals, I appreciate there are those with opposite views. I accept it in the interests of freedom of expression.

MICHAEL SMITH, Chatham, Kent.

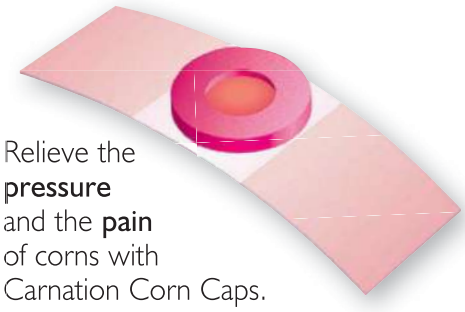
THE man who was arrested for shouting 'Who elected him?' about Charles becoming King said if his protest provoked unrest it was not his fault. He argued he wasn't violent or a threat to peace and has a right to protest. A funeral procession is no place to vent your gripes. If you can't show respect, you won't get any in return.

JOANNA APPLEBY, York.

ANTI-MONARCHY protests are an affront to decency when the rest of us are grieving for our Queen.

CHRIS CROSSMAN, Whitstable, Kent.

Clinically proven corn removal



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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS
Compiled by Charles Legge

Manifesto of Marx's mum

QUESTION Did Karl Marx's mother tell him to accumulate capital instead of writing about it?

THIS was an anecdote that Karl Marx trotted out when referring to the poor state of his finances.

Marx and Friedrich Engels were mid-19th century German philosophers and critics of capitalism. Their ideas laid the groundwork for communism, which advocates for a classless system in which all property and wealth are owned communally rather than privately.

Marx was constantly in debt. His main source of income was Engels, whose father was a wealthy industrialist.

In his 1973 biography of Karl Marx, David McLellan states: 'During 1867, Marx recognised that Engels had given him "an enormous sum of money", but claimed that its effect was negated by his previous debts, which amounted to £200.

'The next year, on his 50th birthday, he bitterly recalled his mother's words: "If only Karl had made capital instead of just writing about it."'

McLellan's source for the quote was volume 31 of Marx And Engels Collected Works, which included unpublished manuscripts and letters.

A variation of the quote appears in a letter from Marx to Engels: 'As that Prussian lieutenant said to you: "Twenty years of service and still lieutenant."

'I can say: Half a century on my shoulders and still a pauper. How right my mother was: "If only Karell had made capital instead of etc."'

Since he shortened his mother's quote in a letter to his long-time friend and financial benefactor, we can assume that this wasn't the first time he had repeated the anecdote.

Debbie Westwood, Reading, Berks.

QUESTION Who is the highest-rated female chess player of all time?

HUNGARIAN Grandmaster Judit Polgar is the only woman to have been ranked in the world's top ten and is widely considered to be the strongest female chess player of all time.

She was never women's world champion because she was too strong a player to enter the competition. She won games against Garry Kasparov and Magnus Carlsen when they were world No. 1.

Polgar was born on July 23, 1976, in Budapest. In 1991, she achieved the title of Grandmaster aged 15 years and four months, breaking the record held by Bobby Fischer.

In 1993, she defeated former world champion Boris Spassky. She reached top-ten ranking in 1996.

In 1998, she defeated the International Chess Federation (FIDE) world champion Anatoly Karpov in a match of 'action' chess (30 minutes per game).

Polgar is the only woman to have been a serious candidate for the World Chess Championship, in which she participated in 2005. She is also the only woman to have surpassed FIDE 2,700 ranking points, reaching her peak world ranking of No. 8 in 2004 and peak rating of 2,735 in 2005.

She was the top-rated woman in the world from 1989 until her retirement in 2014.

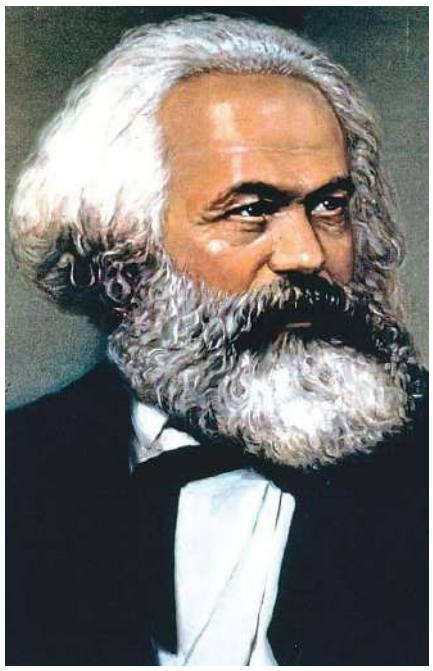
Kasparov said that, based on her approach: 'If to "play like a girl" meant anything in chess, it would mean relentless aggression.'

The strongest female chess player since Polgar retired is Hou Yifan of China. At 14 years and six months, she became the youngest female player to become a Grandmaster. In 2010, aged 16, she became the youngest women's world champion.

She won the championship again in 2013 and 2016 before shifting her focus to open events. Her peak rating was 2,686 and she is ranked 98th in the world.

She attended the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar in 2018 and became a professor at Shenzhen University at the age of 26.

C.J. Hofer, Goring, Oxon.



Picture: GETTY

In debt: Karl Marx had money trouble

QUESTIONS

Q: Why did Bill Forsyth, of Gregory's Girl and Local Hero fame, stop making films?
Mark Knight, Wolverhampton, W. Mids.

Q: In Victorian times, who were the Banner Ladies?
Elizabeth Smith, Bath, Somerset.

Q: Do satellite dishes near the equator point straight up?
Steve Miller, St Helens, Lancs.

QUESTION Did more people die making the V2 rocket than were hit by it?

IT IS estimated that more than 20,000 slave labourers died building V2 missiles — many more than were killed by it.

There were 3,172 V2 rockets launched against Allied targets, of which 1,402 were fired at Britain — mainly London.

The remainder were launched at Belgium, France and the Netherlands. Eleven were fired at Remagen, Germany, to counter the American crossing of the Rhine in 1945.

It is thought 2,754 civilians were killed (nearly two for each V2 strike) and 6,523 wounded in the London attacks.

Some workers died in accidents with the missiles and in Allied bombings of construction and launch sites, but most perished due to ill treatment.

One of the main construction sites was an underground factory at Mittelwerk near Buchenwald concentration camp in central Germany.

Prisoners with technical skills, especially metalworking and welding, were transported there from other concentration camps.

Conditions at the camp and factory were appalling, with poor accommodation, food and sanitation. The labourers were often forced to work around the clock. Exhaustion and poor conditions led to a short life expectancy. Eyewitness accounts report that prisoners were hanged from cranes above the assembly lines for minor transgressions.

The V2 was the first ballistic missile, and its invention accelerated rocket development for military and civilian use. It enabled the Moon landings and satellite communications, but these came at a terrible human cost.

Robert Sutherland, Northampton.

■ IS THERE a question to which you want to know the answer? Or do you know the answer to a question here? Write to: Charles Legge, Answers To Correspondents, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT; or email charles.legge@dailymail.co.uk. A selection is published, but we're unable to enter into individual correspondence.

TODAY'S RECIPE: Roasted aubergine salad

LEBANESE flavours. Serves: 6.

Ingredients

- 2 aubergines, chopped
- 2 red peppers, chopped
- 2 small red onions, cut into 8 wedges
- 6 garlic cloves, skin on
- 6 tbsp olive oil
- 200g cherry tomatoes
- 400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 3 tbsp pomegranate molasses
- 1 lemon, juiced
- ½ tsp honey
- 2 tbsp capers
- 60g rocket leaves
- 4 tbsp sunflower seeds

Method

1 Heat oven to 200c/180c fan/gas 6. Season and roast aubergines, peppers, onion wedges and garlic cloves with 4 tbsp olive oil for 30 minutes. Remove and add cherry tomatoes and chickpeas. Return to oven for 20 minutes until everything is roasted. Set aside to cool.

2 Combine 2 tbsp pomegranate molasses with lemon juice, honey, capers, remaining oil and a pinch of salt and pepper. Tip cooled aubergine mix into a bowl with rocket and dressing. Scatter over sunflower seeds and drizzle with the rest of the pomegranate molasses.

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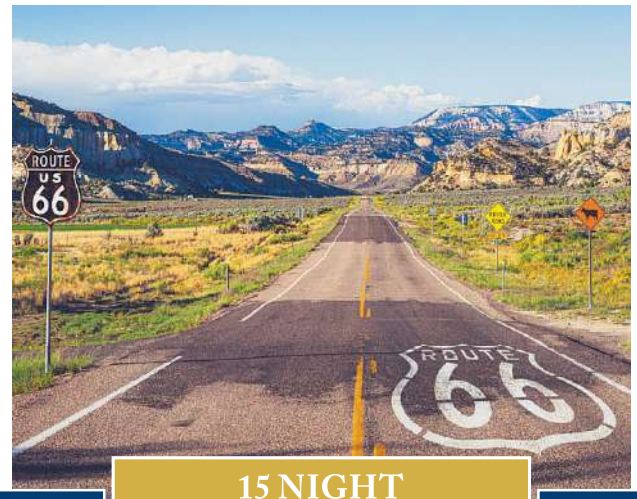

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Day 3 **Chicago – Pontiac – Springfield, USA**
This morning, visit the Route 66 Hall of Fame & Museum in Pontiac. Later in Springfield, visit the former home of President Abraham Lincoln and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum (B)

Day 4 **Springfield – St. Louis, USA**
Cross the mighty Mississippi River and continue to St. Louis, the 'Gateway to the West'. Here, enjoy a tour including the towering Gateway Arch National Park

Day 5 **St. Louis – Branson, USA**
Today, travel through the Missouri countryside, then on to Branson, one of America's biggest music centres where you will spend time exploring at your leisure (B)

Day 6 **Branson – Tulsa – Oklahoma City, USA**
This morning, leave the Ozarks and travel through America's 'Bible Belt' into Cowboy Country. After a quick drive through Kansas, enter Oklahoma, once known as Indian Territory. In Tulsa, see the 'East Meets West' sculpture that pays tribute to Cyrus Avery, known as the Father of Route 66 (B)

Day 7 **Oklahoma City – Elk City – Amarillo, USA**
Start the day with a city sightseeing tour of Oklahoma City. From here, travel to Elk City and visit the National Route 66 Museum. Continue into Texas and on to Amarillo, the Yellow Rose of Texas (B)

Day 8 **Amarillo, USA – Tucumcari – Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA**
On the way out of Amarillo, see Cadillac Ranch before crossing into New Mexico and reach Adrian, the halfway point on Route 66. Visit Russell's Car Museum and stop in Tucumcari. Visit Central Avenue in Albuquerque, where many of the original Route 66 buildings and businesses still stand (B)

Day 9 **Albuquerque, New Mexico**
Spend today at your leisure

Day 10 **Albuquerque – Acoma – Gallup, New Mexico – Winslow – Williams, USA**
This morning, visit Acoma Sky City, situated on 367ft high sandstone rock and considered the oldest continuously inhabited village in the USA. Then, cross the Continental Divide and continue to Gallup, which claims a long time Hollywood connection. From classic westerns to the more recent Adventures of Superman, the area has provided unequalled movie scenery

Day 11 **Williams, USA**
Deviate from Route 66 to see one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, Grand Canyon National Park. Wander along the canyon rim for breathtaking views and wildlife. Return to Williams where the evening is free to explore (B)

Day 12 **Williams – Seligman – Las Vegas, USA**
Depart Williams for Seligman, home to the rebirth of Route 66. Detour to visit the bright lights and excitement of Las Vegas. A tour upon arrival shows off many of the themed casino resorts along the colourful 'Strip'. This evening, join an optional night at a dazzling show featuring top Vegas entertainment×× (B)

Day 13 **Las Vegas, USA**
Spend today at your leisure

Day 14 **Las Vegas – Victorville – Los Angeles, USA**
Today, depart Las Vegas and cross the Mojave Desert and the San Bernardino Mountains. Visit the California Route 66 Museum, which displays memories in such settings as a 50's diner, VW Love Bus and the 1917 Model T Ford. Overnight in LA

Day 15 **Los Angeles, USA**
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Day 18 Spend time exploring at your leisure

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Day 25 *Cruising the Inside Passage*

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Veggies? Why not try drizzling them in a little Manuka, mustard and oil, then roasting for an hour on a low heat?

■ FOR a healthy, tasty breakfast, blend Manuka into a chia, raspberry and blueberry smoothie, add it to your porridge or swirl it into plain yoghurt with a handful of fruit and sprinkling of chopped pecans.

Or tasty Manuka honey on sourdough toast, with some cottage cheese, apple and walnuts, is an irresistible morning treat.

■ MIX it into flapjacks or an oat and nut crumble to top a fruit stew — or drizzle it on fruit to top a cake. Adding it to your favourite recipes gives a deliciously subtle sweetness — different from using pure sugar, and certainly healthier.

Pay less for health cover by using a good broker

DO YOU use a broker to compare the market for health insurance? There are often significant savings to be made by using a good broker to review your existing health insurance policy or switch you to another insurer. With the complexities of underwriting and the need to have health cover for your ongoing or previous medical conditions, it can often be difficult to understand the advantages and disadvantages of the products and policies that are available. A broker can interpret the findings of a thorough market review in a clear and simple way.

You can switch your policy and retain cover for even major medical conditions you have had in the past or ongoing conditions such as high blood pressure, for example, without the need for exclusions.

It could be that you are simply paying too much for your health cover. A negotiation of your premium by a broker could mean that you can remain on the same policy as before, but for less money. Or you may have options in a policy you don't need, such as London hospitals or more cover for outpatient consultations than you could use in a year.

Picture: MOREHEALTH

A broker can advise on ways to streamline your policy or look at other more suitable products with a new insurer. With increasing NHS waiting times there are lots of reasons to buy health insurance, from clean hospitals to your own room and choice of specialist.

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Tessa Sanderson CBE

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How to ensure you buy Genuine Manuka

BEFORE reaching for that jar of Manuka honey on the supermarket shelf, here are five top tips to help you spot a cheap diluted or blended fake!

1. Manuka Honey can only come from New Zealand.

New Zealand is the only country to have formalised the scientific definition of Manuka honey. This strict scientific standard is called the MPI Standard and is stamped onto the lid of every jar of Manuka Doctor honey. Australian Manuka honey exists, but it doesn't meet the scientific standard set by New Zealand. Many countries or retailers do not accept it as genuine Manuka.

2. Manuka has higher levels of MGO (Methylglyoxal) than other types of honey.

MGO is a naturally occurring compound in Manuka. The number on the front of the pot refers to the level of MGO. With higher grades costing more due to their rarity and purity.

3. MGO is tested in labs.

MGO should be tested using independent lab tests. You can see the test certificate for any Manuka Doctor honey simply by typing the pot's batch code into our website. Not every Manuka brand allows you this level of trust and transparency.

DR HILARY JONES SAYS:

"This is the brand of Manuka Honey that I trust."

DR HILARY JONES, GP, Health Professional and TV Personality, recommends the Manuka Doctor brand

4. Genuine Manuka honey is expensive for a reason...

Like all natural products, Manuka honey cannot be manufactured, only harvested from a crop. This means there is a finite amount of Manuka produced annually for sale around the world. Therefore, the Manuka honey price is higher than ordinary table honey, which can be manufactured anywhere in the world. Genuine Manuka undergoes rigorous scientific tests to prove its authenticity. All Manuka Doctor honey is tested in this way using independent labs before being packed in New Zealand and exported to the UK.

5. Other Manuka honeys may not be all they seem.

The legal requirements for Manuka are sadly only the law in New Zealand. Anyone could export large drums of honey from New Zealand, dilute it and blend it, then re-pack it in a country where the testing and purity laws are different. Always check where the honey was harvested, where it was packed, and look for the testing certificates for that specific batch.

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Beat tooth loss – and smile with confidence

TOOTH loss and gum disease can affect people of all ages — and at least six per cent of us in the UK have no natural teeth left at all.

Many people try to cope with dentures, which don't function like natural teeth and can be embarrassing and uncomfortable to wear. A reduced ability to chew properly can be a major issue for denture users.

In addition to causing nutritional deficiencies, it can make it embarrassing for those with advanced oral health problems to take part in normal social activities, such as visiting a restaurant.

Food plays such a big part in our lives, taking centre stage in most events involving family or friends. It can be demoralising to feel you have to avoid dining out, or need to stick to soup and ice-cream so you don't have to chew.

Dental implants fixed in one day!

Even smiling in photographs may be a problem. But it can feel priceless when you are able to do this again without any worry.

Issues with eating and posing for photographs are just some of the reasons more people are now opting for full-mouth dental implants that you do not remove, allowing you to relax, eat as you wish and smile with confidence.

Full-mouth dental implants behave as natural teeth and can be fixed in just a day.

There is no bone grafting and they are tailored to your jaw for a precision fit, resulting in enhanced comfort and chewing performance.

As they behave like normal teeth, you'll be able to taste and enjoy your food more, which can benefit your diet, health and quality of life.

After treatment, most patients say that their dental implants have helped them to regain self-esteem and develop new confidence when in social situations.

Before (inset) and after pictures: EVODENTAL

Everyday tasks can be simpler

MORE than two-thirds of people worry about being a burden or having to move into a nursing home at some stage, a survey carried out for DLF — which runs the Living Made Easy and AskSARA advice websites — reveals. Most of us would prefer to remain independent for as long as possible, whether by keeping as active as we can or by making discreet home adaptations. A DLF spokesperson says: 'People want to remain in control of their own lives, to be able to do things for themselves and carry out daily tasks such as dressing, bathing and cooking.'

■ IN THE home, a personal alarm system is great for peace of mind. And voice-activated devices such as Amazon's Alexa or Apple's Siri not only help you make calls, but can be used to set reminders to take medicines or just enjoy music you like. Adapting your home also makes sense — access ramps, grab rails and keeping areas clear to move around safely are factors to consider.

In the bathroom, a walk-in shower can be easier to use, while still looking elegant.

This is a very practical solution for anyone who has difficulty getting in and out of the bath. It is discreet and safe and can include built-in seating or grab rails.

The shower doors are lightweight, making them easy to use. Even with added safety features, it operates like a normal shower that can be enjoyed by all the family. Aquability's and Nationwide Mobility's walk-in showers fit in the same space as your old bath and can usually be installed in a day with no mess or fuss.

Picture: AQUABILITY

Assisted Living

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Styling your forever sanctuary

OUR HOMES are life-enhancing. We make memories, welcome loved-ones and raise the next generations in these special spaces.

We add our own 'stamp' through decor and quirks such as height markers up the door as children grow.

We retreat to these sanctuaries for stability in times of uncertainty or worry.

This means that moving can compromise our emotional and financial health.

So, finding — or staying in — a 'Forever Home' (one that lasts a lifetime) is important to many.

Indeed, Stannah's 2022 Silver Census study revealed that more than two in five Brits aged 55-plus plan to stay in their current home forever.

Three in five adults have no plans to downsize.

As we grow older, it can feel that a lived-in and much-loved home no longer suits our needs. In fact, nearly half of people over 55 don't consider their current home accessible.

Yet any house or living space can become a 'Forever Home' with a little future-proofing — namely, adaptations that make life easier and help you keep on being you.

Changes can be subtle or sizeable, inexpensive or more of an investment, but the difference they can make is invaluable. So

Picture: STANNAH

A future-proofed home can still be fashionable

allow your home to evolve with you. You could start by minimising trip hazards and clutter, investing in a video doorbell, or installing grabrails in the bathroom.

And larger adaptations that can transform daily life include a stairlift or homelift, adjustable bed or a step-free shower.

Reframe your thinking and use this as an opportunity. And the good news is that a future-proofed, functional home can still be fashionable, as two in five adults agree, according to the survey. Making adaptations, now or to meet future needs, can empower you to enjoy your four walls to the fullest, turning your current home into your Forever Home.

■ THINKING about a stairlift? One of the biggest myths is that they have very high running costs.

Yet, based on energy prices in February 2022, on average it will set you back just 40p per week to use a stairlift.

This is equivalent to about £20 a year, and cheaper to run than a kettle! Stairlifts use two batteries that are continuously charged through 'parking spots', at the top or bottom of the staircase. In a power cut, charging can't be done, but the batteries enable you to do around eight return journeys with a single charge.

Stairlifts can be made for straight or curved stairs. And extra features might include a powered swivel seat and footrest.

You can rent a stairlift on a monthly basis. And Stannah's reconditioned stairlifts are fully refurbished, no more than a few years old, and have had a full safety check so are almost as good as new!

Worktop that lasts

Quality quartz surfaces help to update the kitchen

WHEN updating the home, don't forget to make the kitchen future-proof. Think ergonomic — perhaps by including stylish lever handles, and drawers and pullout systems that minimise the need to bend and lift. Lighting needs to be good. And flooring that reduces the risk of slipping should be chosen. When it comes to worktops, choose one built to last.

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Picture: QUARTZIZE

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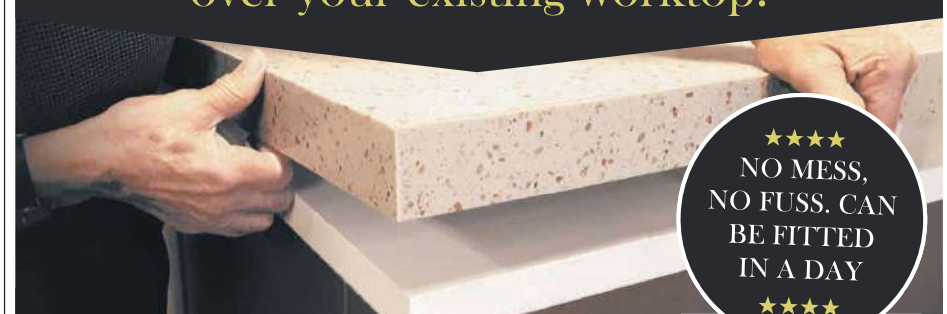

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You'll then disembark in the ocean-fringed metropolis of Vancouver where you'll enjoy a two-night hotel stay, during which you'll learn more about this beautiful city and see some of its most iconic sights with a fully escorted tour. You'll next embark the astonishing Rocky Mountaineer, a luxury rail journey that glides into the heart of the spellbinding Canadian Rockies. On board you'll discover breathtaking landscapes and natural wonders, as well as stopping for the night in stunning Kamloops. Your spellbinding rail journey comes to a close in Banff where you'll enjoy an overnight stay to discover dramatic gorges and the glistening Lake Louise with a fully escorted tour. The following day, you'll transfer to Calgary to delight in a three-night hotel stay to immerse yourself in the Calgary Stampede - an incredible rodeo to remember.

Enter the spirit of Canada's Wild West at the Calgary Stampede, considered 'The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth'. With two-day access to this thrilling event, you'll witness a host of adrenaline-fuelled, jaw-dropping events with lively rodeos, bull riding and live acts. While spectating, indulge in the array of mouth-watering North American snacks on offer for an all-round immersive experience.

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Star stock-picker to close emerging markets fund

Terry Smith gives up on his struggling £325m trust

by ***Lucy White***

Base: Smith lives in Mauritius

TERRY Smith has shocked the investment industry by announcing plans to close his emerging markets fund.

The popular stockpicker, who founded the firm Fundsmith in 2010, is to shut the £325m Fundsmith Emerging Equities Trust (FEET) as its performance was not living up to expectations.

The move stunned the City, with one analyst saying Smith had 'fired' himself from a fund still earning him healthy fees.

Fundsmith currently runs four funds. Its flagship Fundsmith Equity vehicle looks after £23.5bn of savers' money. But while an investor who ploughed their savings into Fundsmith Equity in 2010 would now be sitting on six times their money, those in FEET are not so lucky.

Since the stock market-listed trust was founded in 2014, it has made a 22.3pc return – and underperformed its benchmark, the MSCI Emerging & Frontier Markets Index, which is up 67.9pc.

Mauritius-based Smith, 69, said: 'We have always maintained that we would only run funds where we felt we had a particular edge that would allow us to deliver superior risk-adjusted returns.

'Whilst FEET has made a positive return since launch in 2014 it has fallen below our expectations and, unlike other fund managers who might seek to hold on to the fund for the sake of the fee income, we feel it would be in the best interests of shareholders to receive their investment back in cash through a liquidation of the portfolio and wind-up of the company.' Several industry experts said the move was in their memory unprecedented.

Some have had to give up funds by investors – Nelson Peltz, father-in-law of Brooklyn Beckham, was recently pushed to shut London-based Trian Investors 1.

Neil Woodford's empire collapsed after Link, which oversaw his operations, shuttered his fl Woodford Equity Income fund following poor performance.

Jason Hollands, of investment platform Bestinvest, said: 'It is hard to think of a previous example, certainly in recent history, of a fund manager deciding to fire themselves.' Dzmitry Lipski, at Interactive Investor, praised Smith, saying it 'can be far better to wind an investment trust up and return money to shareholders, than to limp on for years.

FEET owned few companies exposed to or based in China but as the country is the world's second-largest economy, avoiding it has weighed on performance.

If shareholders back liquidation, all assets will be sold, with the money returned to investors.

FUNDSMITH INVESTMENT EMPIRE

	Fundsmith Equity	Smithson	Sustainable Equity	Emerging Equities
Size of fund	£23.5bn	£2.3bn	£682m	£325m
Launch date	Nov 2010	Oct 2018	Nov 2017	June 2014
Performance since start	▲ 508.6pc	▲ 29.5pc	▲ 73.8pc	▲ 22.3pc
Performance this year	▼ 10.3pc	▼ 35.9pc	▼ 8pc	▼ 11pc

Japan mulls intervention as US dollar crushes yen

by ***John-Paul Ford Rojas***

THE dollar's rampage has pushed one of the world's biggest economies to the verge of intervening in foreign exchange markets.

The Bank of Japan could be the first major central bank to start buying up its own currency as the US dollar surges. It has carried out a 'rate check' – a move seen as a likely precursor to intervention, in which officials call up dealers and ask for the price of buying and selling yen.

Victoria Scholar, at Interactive Investor, said: 'An intervention is not unprecedented and would be the logical next step if the yen continues to fall dramatically.'

The yen has lost nearly 30pc against the US dollar this year to hit its lowest level since 1998. That was the last time the Bank of Japan intervened to aid its currency.

America's currency has been boosted by aggressive interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve to cool inflation. The pound is down by 14pc versus the dollar this year, while the euro is off by 12pc, and has hit parity.

A super-strength dollar causes serious imbalances. Commodities priced in dollars, like oil, cost more and countries with dollar-denominated debt piles find it harder to service them.

Japan's currency is suffering as it has held off from the interest rate hikes seen elsewhere, leaving its key rate at minus 0.1pc.

Finance minister Shunichi Suzuki said: 'Recent moves are rapid and one-sided, and we're very concerned. If such moves continue, we must respond without ruling out any options.' The yen has hit a 24-year low of 145 per dollar – and the hint of intervention lifted it more than 1pc yesterday.

Michael Hewson, analyst at CMC Markets, said: 'If they intervene now without altering their monetary policy settings, they might as well just set fire to the dollars they offload. It may slow the decline in the yen, but it won't stop it.'

Hornby steams ahead with festive orders

by ***Archie Mitchell***

MODEL train maker Hornby said the hobby industry can ride out the economic storm as it gears up for a bumper Christmas.

The firm, best known for its train sets, also makes Scalextric cars and Airfix model planes, and said its 'outstanding order book is very strong' – even better than last year.

And it said that while it was 'mindful of the impact the current economic climate may have on demand', the hobby industry tends to perform well in times of trouble.

Executive chairman Lyndon Davies said shoppers are still spending on model cars and trains as they 'get comfort off brands they recall from their past'.

He added: 'When you have a hobby you can turn inward and are not dominated by the problems around you. In times of crisis people turn inward and look for comfort, and what our brands offer is that comfort.'

Hornby is bringing forward the shipping dates of key products to dodge supply chain disruption in the run-up to Christmas.

In a sign of resilience it said sales and profits from April to September were in line with last year. Davies said: 'The most interesting thing people are finding is that we are not saying sales are down.'

Hornby is seeing strong sales of Christmas rail sets as well as Scalextric models of the DeLorean time machine from the Back to the Future films and the Batmobile. It has also released a model of a Spitfire fighter.

A Covid-fuelled boom reversed almost a decade of losses, after poor management decisions left it close to collapse.

Interest in the firm remained strong, with a 2021 documentary Hornby: A Model World looking behind the scenes. Another series about the firm is currently being filmed.

Davies, a toy industry veteran who took over in 2017, has spearheaded a turnaround. He pushed to cut costs, improve the supply chain and expand the product ranges offered by brands such as Airfix and Scalextric. Shares rose 1.8pc, or 0.5p, to 28.5p.

Bumper season: Hornby model trains

Europe battling big tech

Alex Brummer

CITY EDITOR

A GREAT failure of Europe is that, in spite of all its engineering and technology expertise, it has failed miserably to replicate the success of the US in creating and expanding the reach of digital giants Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix and Google.

Britain's only possible digital leader, Arm Holdings, is in limbo, owned by a feckless Japanese investor SoftBank.

Chief executive Masayoshi Son, having been prevented from selling Arm to American rival Nvidia, wants to park it on the Nasdaq market in New York rather than reshore it to Britain.

The UK is so anxious to encourage the social media behemoths to build campuses and invest in Britain that it has shied away from meaningful digital taxes.

The result is that indigenous retail businesses have vanished and veterans of the High Street, such as John Lewis, M&S and Sainsbury's, struggle to compete.

The European Union has been fearless in challenging the social media monopolies. In spite of a great history of 'trust-busting', taking on the monopolies of Standard Oil of New Jersey and AT&T, successive US presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden have so far done little to ease the anti-competitive grip of the digital giants on society.

Only Netflix, which has encountered free market competition from the likes of Disney and Paramount, finds itself under real commercial pressure.

The main trust-buster now is the EU's competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager. She challenged Apple over its anti-competitive tax practices in Ireland, collecting a £13bn fine. This week Brussels won a famous victory over Google over the way it restricts access to Android devices.

This has helped it become the dominant search engine by blocking out most potential competitors. The EU won support from a European court, which imposed a £3.5bn fine. All of this bodes well for the EU's Digital Markets Act, which aims to challenge the dominance of Silicon Valley.

The law should make it easier for users to switch to rivals, remove and replace apps, change default settings, and unsubscribe from core services. Smaller challengers should find it easier to operate on the dominant players platforms.

Britain's digital markets bill, outlined in the Johnson government's 'Queen's Speech' in May, was part of a UK effort to empower our own competition authorities to check the power of the digital giants.

It has been a slow-burning victim of Tory in-fighting and the focus of policy-makers on the energy policy and the cost of living.

Britain is in danger of being left in an EU slipstream which could harm consumer choice and damage burgeoning tech start-ups.

Paper tigers

THE pretence of the banks that branch closures and driving customers online are for their benefit needs to be questioned.

NatWest's online platform at present makes it impossible to look at recent transactions or pay any bill before being confronted with a page that demands the user affirm that they still want to receive paper statements. Santander is writing to its customers saying: 'We will be emailing you soon to let you know that we are converting any current accounts and savings accounts you hold to paper-free' – worded as a huge favour.

The emails, when they arrive, come with a 'no reply' warning so the customer is given no obvious opportunity of opting out. In an age of scammers and bank fraud, the idea that all communications from Santander will only be 'digital' is unconscionable.

Any effort to cloak going paperless moves as an environmental initiative must be regarded as greenwashing. The beneficiaries are Santander shareholders, mainly in Spain, and executives boosting bonuses.

Shameless!

Tokyo story

JAPAN is rarely a first mover when it comes to global finance.

So the decision of the Bank of Japan to conduct a 'rate check' – a sign it may intervene to try to reverse a dive against the dollar to its lowest level in 24 years – must be taken seriously.

The move comes ahead of next month's gathering of finance ministers of the G7, G20 and International Monetary Fund in Washington, where energy costs, inflation and the upward surge in the dollar look certain to dominate. Bring it on.

ASTON MARTIN FACES £150M LAWSUIT OVER HYPERCAR

ASTON Martin faces a lawsuit over the development of the troubled Valkyrie hypercar.

In the latest setback for James Bond's favourite car manufacturer, two former dealers have filed a complaint in London claiming they are owed £150m.

Details of the complaint are not public because it is private arbitration. But the case relates to a deal agreed in 2016 when it began developing the Valkyrie.

At the time Andreas Baenziger and Florian Kamelger, co-owners of the Swiss Nebula Project, dealt with clients in Switzerland. Under the terms, the Nebula Project handled Swiss customer deposits on Valkyrie orders and were guaranteed royalty payments of 3pc, about £150m. But production only began last year.

And relations between the two parties have soured. In June 2021 Aston claimed the pair had withheld Valkyrie customer deposits and sued them for £15m.

Aston revealed the case last week. It said: 'At this stage it is not possible to assess the potential total overall exposure.'

Redrow warns red-hot market is now slowing

by ***Adele Cooke*** *and* ***Hugo Duncan***

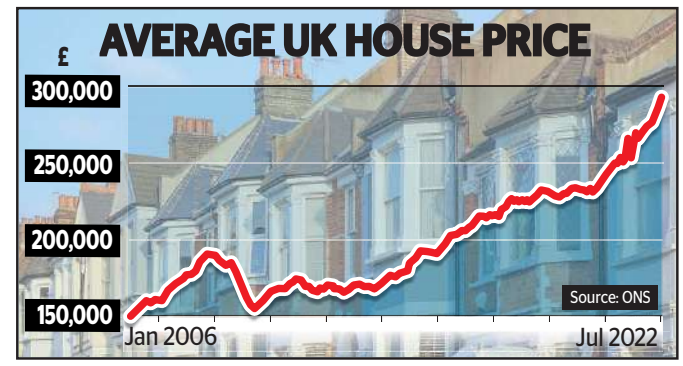
REDROW said the red-hot property market is now cooling after official figures showed prices rising at the fastest pace for 20 years.

The Office for National Statistics has said average house prices in the UK rose by 15.5pc or £39,000 in the year to July to an all-time high of £292,000 – the biggest percentage increase since May 2003.

But, striking a more cautious tone while posting record revenues and profits, the FTSE 250 housebuilder's chief executive Matthew Pratt said: 'Over the last two years the market has been incredibly strong with elevated demand, partly resulting from people's changed priorities around working from home.

'We are now seeing a return to a more normal market where demand is moderating to historical levels.'

Chairman Richard Akers added: 'Given rising inflation and higher interest rates it is not surprising the buoyant market has moderated.'



Redrow sold 5,715 new homes in the 12 months to July 3, 95 up on the previous year.

But with prices rising, revenue was up 10pc to £2.14bn, with underlying profits jumping 31pc to £410m, beating the record of £406m in 2019.

Overall profit fell 22pc to £246m after it put aside £164m to address high-rise block fire safety issues. Its shares fell 0.3pc, or 1.6p, to 474.6p. Charlie Huggins, head of equities at Wealth Club, said: 'Make no mistake – the biggest reason for Redrow's success is high house prices and the general strength of the market.

'That is something over which it has no control, and the big bad wolf of recession could be about to blow away the good times.

'If interest rates keep rising, it's hard to see how housing would be immune.'

'Something awry' at Naked Wines as director quits and shares tank

by ***John-Paul Ford Rojas***

'YOU only find out who is swimming naked when the tide goes out,' billionaire stock picker Warren Buffett once said.

Now investors in Naked Wines may be finding that advice – about how companies' weaknesses can be exposed in a downturn – could be taken more literally than they would like.

A director quit yesterday after less than three weeks and the firm has launched a review of plans, prompting Wayne Brown, an analyst at Liberum, to comment: 'Something has gone somewhat awry.'

As shares fell 37.7pc, or 54.7p, to 90.4p, Naked Wines said Pratham Ravi was resigning. He is an analyst with Florida investor Punch Card Capital, one of the largest shareholders, with an approximately 10pc stake.

Naked Wines also said it is trying to 'address' a credit facility that lets it borrow money from its banks. It comes after the Norwich company warned in June that retention rates had fallen from 88pc to 80pc in the last financial year. Days later the chief financial officer left. Shares fell 40pc that day, and are down more than 87pc in the last year.

Naked said: 'The company is reviewing potential operational and financial plans for the next 18 months and will update on these alongside our trading update.'

This is due next month. Brown added: 'This could imply a smaller business in the future and reining in ambitions, which makes sense considering how poor key performance indicators are.'

FTSE 100	FTSE 250	FTSE All Share	DOW	NIKKEI	HANG SENG	DAX	Brent Spot	Gold
7277.30	18849.20	3996.83	31135.09	27818.62	18847.10	13028.00	94.50	1704.29
108.56 1.47%	318.01 1.66%	59.29 1.46%	30.12 0.097%	796.01 2.78%	479.76 2.48%	160.95 1.22%	1.74 1.88%	2.26 0.13%
H:7672.40 L:6903.91	H:23896.65 L:18315.31	H:4296.96 L:3862.39	H:36799.65 L:29888.78	H:30500.05 L:24717.53	H:26136.02 L:18415.08	H:16271.75 L:12401.20	H:123.58 L:88.00	H:1853.07 L:1697.05

£/$ 1.1568 ▲ 0.0037 H:1.3821 L:1.1469 £/€ 1.1572 ▲ 0.0043 H:1.2102 L:1.1529

Tourist Rates £1 Buys: Aus$ 1.62, Can$ 1.44, Den Kr 8.16, Euro € 1.10, Jpn Y 157.19, NZ$ 1.79, SA R 18.84, Sw Fr 1.05, Turk l 20.01, US$ 1.10

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FTSE spooked after sharp sell-off on Wall Street

MARKET REPORT

By John Abiona

SHARES in London tumbled after Wall Street suffered its worst performance since the depths of the pandemic.

After a heavy sell-off in New York on Tuesday, the **FTSE 100** fell 1.5pc, or 108.56 points, to 7277.30 and the **FTSE 250** fell 1.7pc, or 318.01 points, to 18849.20.

The losses were mirrored across Europe as the main benchmark in Germany sank 1.2pc while France's **Cac** slid 0.4pc.

In the US, the **Dow Jones** clawed back some of its losses, edging up 0.2pc, having fallen nearly 4pc in what was Wall Street's biggest slide since June 2020. The **Nasdaq** rose 0.7pc after its 5.5pc slump.

Markets have been spooked by the prospect of interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England as central banks fight against inflation.

While inflation in the US fell to 8.3pc in August, it was higher than expected, and set the scene for a bumper rise there next week.

The Bank of England is also expected to strike next week despite inflation in the UK easing slightly from 10.1pc in July to 9.9pc in August.

Hargreaves Lansdown analyst Susannah Streeter said there are mounting concerns that inflation is becoming a mainstay in the economy. She said: 'More aggressive rate rises will mark a sharp escalation in borrowing costs, and worries are ratcheting up about the effect this will have on the global economy, as we hurtle away from the era of cheap money.'

Reports have suggested the Bank of Japan could soon act to prop up the weak yen, something it has not done since 1998.

In London, broker downgrades heaped further pressure on the blue-chip index. A day after its shares tumbled more than 14pc, having warned annual sales were set to fall, **Ocado's** target price was cut to 740p from 775p by Barclays. Credit Suisse cut the target price by nearly 400p, to 590p.

The retailer's shares fell 8.2pc, or 56p, to 623.2p.

There was little cheer for investment firm **Abrdn** as Deutsche Bank sees further risk to the shares from 'an earnings and capital perspective', cutting the target price to 135p from 175p, sending it down 4.6pc, or 6.9p, to 142.3p.

Auto Trader fell 3.1pc, or 20.2p, to 622.8p after Morgan Stanley lowered the online car seller's rating to 'equal-weight' from 'overweight', and cut the target price to 682p, from 755p.

Rio Tinto has joined forces with its largest customer in a £1.7bn iron ore project in Pilbara, Australia. The mining giant will invest £1.12bn and hold a 54pc stake, with the rest owned by Baowu. Rio fell 2.3pc, or 111p, to 4798p.

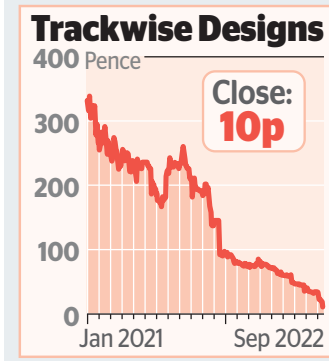
Home furnisher **Dunelm** posted record profits as stores remained open all year for the first time since Covid struck.

Full-year profit rose 32.4pc to £209m and sales rose 16.2pc to £1.55bn. Boss Nick Wilkinson vowed to 'make every pound count', with it on track to deliver results in line with expectations. It rose 3.5pc, or 25p, to 748p.

Tullow Oil is 'fully committed' to a merger with Capricorn Energy. In its half-year results, it said the deal will create a 'leading African energy company'. Its comments came after Capricorn shareholder Schroders said it would not back the deal as it believes Capricorn should take a 70pc stake – well above the 47pc planned. Tullow rose 2.2pc, or 1.1p, to 50.8p.

Dublin drinks company **C&C**, whose brands include Bulmers and Magners, expects revenues to rise 35pc to £777m and profit of £45m to £47m for the six months to the end of August. But Shore Capital lowered its profit expectations for the full year by £8.6m to around £77.7m after C&C suffered a slowdown in trading. C&C fell 8.1pc, or 14.1p, to 159.8p.

STOCK WATCH



■ **TRACKWISE Designs plunged after it said it needs to raise money to get a new manufacturing plant up and running.**

It had signed a four-year agreement to supply its circuits to a UK manufacturer of electric vehicles. But the AIM-listed firm's funding plans have been affected after the customer last month said it expects fewer units.

Trackwise is in 'advanced discussions' about a new contract and 'reviewing options for additional funding'. Shares fell 47.4pc, or 9p, to 10p.

TOP RISERS

	CLOSING PRICE	DAILY CHANGE	REASON
Network International	292.20	+5.34%	Bargain hunting
Dunelm	748.00	+3.46%	Bumper profit
Darktrace	380.60	+2.95%	Recovers losses
Scottish Mortgage	827.00	+2.43%	Strong portfolio
Tullow Oil	50.80	+2.21%	Takeover talks

TOP FALLERS

	CLOSING PRICE	DAILY CHANGE	REASON
Ocado	623.20	-8.24%	Broker downgrades
C&C Group	159.80	-8.11%	Trading slowdown
JTC	787.00	-6.75%	Sector woes
Future	1698.00	-6.60%	Rally cools
Kainos Group	1378.00	-6.26%	Industry concerns

			High	Low
Aerospace & Defence				
Aston Martin	153¼	-3½	1963½	153¼
BAE Systems	771⅛	-22⅛	838⅛	528¼
Chemring Gp	286½	-15	367½	256
Meggitt	798¼		798¼	732¼
QinetiQ	329⅛	-7¼	394¼	243
Rolls-Royce	75⅛	-3⅛	147½	71¼
TI Fluid Systems	142¼xd	-4	287½	136
Banks				
Banco Santander	225¼	+2⅛	290⅞	193⅛
Bank of Georgia	2105	-60	2205	986
Barclays	169⅛xd	-2	217⅛	140⅛
HSBC Hldgs	518⅛xd	-10¼	567¼	359¼
Lloyds Banking	46¼xd	-¼	55⅛	41
NatWest Group	269¼xd		269¼	192⅛
Stan Chartered	612⅛xd	+¼	638⅛	410
TBC Bank	1838	-54	1912	901
Virgin Money UK	149½	-5½	218⅛	124¼
Beverages				
Britvic	772½	-18	949½	741
C&C Group	159¼	-14⅛	264¼	159¼
Coca-Cola HBC	1943	-33	2687	1460½
Diageo	3763½xd	-40½	4103½	3343
Chemicals				
Croda Intnal	6746xd	-74	10410	5908
Elementis	109½	-3	157¼	97
Johnson Matt	1944	-73	2763	1721
Synthomer	173¼	-8⅛	524½	173¼
Victrex	1702	-81	2538	1590
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	338¼	-⅛	340⅛	215⅛
CRH	3057xd	-120½	4002	2756½
Genuit Group	330½xd	-19	739	330½
Grafton Gp	731⅛xd	-17	1381	704
Ibstock	195⅛xd	-¼	219¼	154
Marshalls	320⅛	-2	819½	319
Tyman	209½	-5½	444½	209½
Volution	340	-6½	560	325
Electricity				
Contour Global	253½	-2	258	178
Drax Gp	711½xd	-18½	831½	475⅛
SSE	1746½xd	-46½	1920	1525
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Halma	2064	-74	3216	1876½
Morgan Advanced	243½	-4½	392	241½
Oxford Instruments	2090	-40	2665	1760
Renishaw	3520	-82	5500	3444
Spectris	2811	-78	4083	2458
Equity Investment Instruments				
3i Infrastructure	331	-1	366½	304
Aberforth Smlr Cos	1188	-14	1554	1144
AJ Bell	275	-⅛	426¼	246¼
Alliance Trust	968xd	-14	1078	887
Allianz Tech	230½	-1½	370	200
Apax Global	163⅛xd	+1⅛	235	157⅛
AVI Global Trust	187	-2¼	222	172
Baillie Giff Japan	746		1100	662
Bankers InvTst	102	-⅛	125	95½
BBGI Global	170⅛xd	-2	180⅛	158
Bellevue Hlthcare	171	-1	208	132⅛
BlackRock Smlr	1300	-18	2175	1254
BlkRckWldMining	605xd	-17	792	502
Caledonia Inv	3525	-70	4100	3230
Chrysalis Inv	65⅛	-2⅛	272	65⅛
City of London IT	399½	-7½	425	377
Edin Inv Trust	584	-14	657	573
Edin Wwide	183⅛	+⅛	335	160¼
European Opp	681	-18	891	644
F&C Inv Trust	857	-9	946	770
Fidelity China	240½	+4½	342	218½
Fidelity Emg	598⅛	-3⅛	878	587¼
Fidelity Eur	287½	-1½	345	267½
Fidelity Spec Val	261½	-4	315	250
Finsbury G&I Tst	823	-15	930	734
GCP Infra Inv	105	-1	118⅛	100¼
Global Smaller	137¼	-1¼	177	134⅛
Greencoat UK	165¼	+1¼	165¼	129¼
Harbourvest	2080	-60	2940	2000
Henderson Sml Co	794xd	-12	1318	754
Herald Inv Trust	1682	-6	2575	1560
HG Capital Trust	380	-20	454	267½
HICL Infr	177xd	+1⅛	183	161
Hipgnosis Songs	103	-3	129¼	102⅛
ICG Enterprise	1040	-10	1314	954
Impax Enviro Mkts	429½	-8	583	381½
JPM American	741xd	-11	795	655
JPM Emerg Mkt	105⅛	-⅛	137¼	99¼
JPM Euro Disc	382½	-3½	582	366½
JPM Japan IT	454½	-9½	726	412½
Jupiter Fund	102⅛	-3¼	265	91⅛
Law Debenture	716	-16	830	709
LXI REIT	147⅛	-3⅛	154	133⅛
M&G	195⅛xd	-4	227¼	178¼
Mercantile IT	182¼	-5⅛	283	173¼
Molten Ventures	346	-5¼	1154	326¼
Monks Inv Tst	1039	+2	1450	888
Morgan Sindall	1626	-34	2600	1626
Murray Inc Tst	801xd	-19	934	770
Murray Intl Tst	1242	-20	1320	1076
Ninety One	193¼	-4¼	277⅛	183¼
Pantheon Intl	262	-½	351	240½
Pershing Square	2800xd	+30	3115	2330
Personal Assets Tr	484xd	-3⅛	509	473½
Polar Cap Tech	1960	-18	2750	1778
Renewables Infra	144⅛xd	-⅛	147¼	123¼
RIT Cap Partners	2270	-25	2765	2220
Schroder Asia	515	-1	614	498
Schroder Oriental	260		276	251½
Scot American Inv	478½xd	-2½	543	442½
Scottish Mortgage	827	+19⅛	1543½	670⅛
Sequoia Econ Infra	87¼	-1¼	113⅛	83¼
Smithson Inv	1270	-25	2025	1140
Syncona	189⅛	-8¼	219	157¼
Templeton Em	147⅛	-⅛	189¼	140⅛
Vietnam Enter	682	-9	791	625
VinaCapital Vietna	490	-5½	545	454
Witan Invest	219xd	-½	257	202
Wwide Healthcare	3355	-40	3810	2825
XP Power	1890xd	-50	5540	1798
Food Producers				
Assoc Brit Foods	1328½	-31½	2131	1328½
Cranswick	3104	-8	3820	2918
Greencore Gp	88⅛	-1¼	146⅛	84⅛
Hilton Food Gp	941	-26	1250	930
Premier Foods	106		126¼	98¼
Tate & Lyle	696¼	-22⅛	906½	696¼
Unilever	3965½	-52	4063½	3328
Forestry & Paper				
Mondi	1450½xd	-42½	1971	1309
General Financial				
3i Group	1133	-30	1503½	1059
Ashmore Gp	215⅛	-6¼	370¼	192
BR Throgmorton	543	-20	1022	533
Brewin Dolphin	513	-1	517	266
Bridgepoint Group	249xd	-9⅛	569	208
Capital Gearing	5060	-10	5180	4905
Close Brothers	1027	-21	1575	987
CMC Markets	224½	+2½	317	214½
Coats Group	56¼	-1¼	81⅛	56¼
Hargrvs Lansdwn	836⅛	-24	1598	762⅛
IG Gp	787		857½	648
Integrafin	249¼	-6¼	602	213
Intermediate Cap	1218	-27½	2379	1218
Intl Public Prtnshps	165⅛	-⅛	174¼	156
Investec	389	-5⅛	536¼	275⅛
IP Group	69¼xd	-1⅛	141¼	66¼
JTC	787	-57	936	571
London Stock Ex	7900xd	-104	8582	6370
Man Group	246⅛	-4¼	274⅛	178⅛
OSB Group	533xd	-7½	599	418¼
Paragon	490¼	-8¼	617½	427¼
Petershill Partners	217½	-5	350¼	194¼
Plus500	1655xd	-16	1824	1255½
Provident Financial	182⅛xd	-3¼	381⅛	166
Quilter	102¼xd	-3⅛	185	96⅛
Rathbone Grp	1826xd	-18	2210	1518
Ruffer Investment	292	-10	325	230
Schroders	2546	-108	3871	2546
SDCL Energy	114¼xd	-⅛	125⅛	97¼
Temple Bar	218½xd	-3½	254⅛	203⅛
TP ICAP	167⅛	-1¼	172⅛	102½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec	227¾xd	+1¼	245¼	166⅛
Mediclinic Intl	495¼		501½	286⅛
Smith & Neph	1064	-29	1369	1008
Spire Health	235	-4½	254½	206
Housebuilders				
Barratt Devel	406⅛	-10¼	760	406⅛
Bellway	1936	-62	3505	1936
Berkeley Grp	3475	-163	4903	3447
Countryside	246	-3¼	530	225¼
Crest Nicholson	220	-4⅛	413⅛	220
Persimmon	1421	-39	2883	1421
Redrow	474⅛xd	-1⅛	718¼	470⅛
Taylor Wimpey	103⅛	-3	178	103⅛
Vistry Group	725	-45½	1261½	725
Industrial Transportation				
Clarkson	2720xd		4180	2665
Redde Northgate	320	-8½	440½	312
Royal Mail	251⅛	-12⅛	526¼	251⅛
Industrials				
Bodycote	531½	-18½	945	500
Hill & Smith	1004	-16	1866	960
IMI	1114xd	-36	1838	1071
Melrose Ind	116¼	-4⅛	183½	107⅛
RHI Magnesita	1833xd	-88	3702	1729
Rotork	243xd	-6	373⅛	232¼
Smith (DS)	272	-8	458¼	260⅛
Smiths Gp	1519	-44	1629	1355½
Smurfit Kappa Gp	2888	-81	4180	2623
Spirax-Sarco	10600	-210	17135	9130
Vesuvius	349xd	-14	536	284⅛
Weir Gp	1496	-44	1897	1328½
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshp	6925xd	-300	11590	6005
Watches of Switz	840½	-16½	1518	737
Life Insurance				
abrdn	142¼xd	-6⅛	263⅛	141½
Aviva	437¼xd	-5	602⅛	382¼
Just Group	72¼	-2⅛	95⅛	63¼
Legal & General	259¼xd	-2½	307¼	233¼
Phoenix Gp	603⅛xd	-7¼	701⅛	568¼
Prudential	938xd	-21¼	1509	881
St James Place	1090xd	-37	1731½	1044
Media				
4imprint	3485xd	-165	4045	2240
Ascential	219	-9	448¼	195
Auto Trader Gp	622¼xd	-20¼	741¼	499½
Euromny Inst	1448	+2	1466	829
Future	1698	-120	3830	1486
Informa	548¼	-13¼	624	464⅛
ITV	62¼	-3½	125⅛	61¼
Moneysprmkt.com	188¼	-2¼	244¼	167
Pearson	904¼xd	-19⅛	923¼	571¼
RELX	2253	-34	2449	2071
Rightmove Gp	606⅛	-11¼	800⅛	531
WPP	756⅛	-28	1224	725¼
Mining				
Anglo American	2851½xd	-694	1701½	2470½
Antofagasta	1164½xd	-45½	1781½	991⅛
BHP Group	2248xd	-53	3019	1835¼
Centamin	89¼xd	-¼	109¾	74⅛
Endeavour Mining	1711xd	-25	2100	1510
Evraz	81		646¼	53⅛
Ferrexpo	150¾	-6⅛	330⅛	107
Fresnillo	734¼xd	-1¼	986¼	622⅛
Glencore	493⅛xd	-3⅛	541½	312
Hochschild Mining	59¼xd	-3¼	173⅛	59⅛
Rio Tinto	4798xd	-111	6225	4375½
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Gp	2198xd	-32	3524	1729
Beazley	624½	-3½	628	370¼
Direct Line Ins	211¾	-2⅛	312¼	193⅛
Hiscox	935⅛xd	+1	990¼	792¼
Lancashire Hldgs	536	-11½	611½	346⅛
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	462¼xd	+¾	463⅛	303¾
Capricorn Energy	237⅛	-4⅛	242¼	171½
Diversified Energy	131¼xd	+½	142	98½
Energean	1423	-12	1454	776
Harbour Energy	497¼xd	+6¼	530	298½
Shell	2341xd	+13½	2440	1833⅛
Tullow Oil	50¼	+1⅛	62¼	39⅛
Oil Equipment & Services				
Wood Gp(J)	144⅛	+1⅛	251¾	127⅛
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	10152xd	-176	11440	8063
Dechra Pharma	3170	-108	5365	3110
Genus	2684	-76	5750	2234
GSK	1332¼xd	-27¼	1810⅛	1332¼
Hikma Pharma	1242xd	-24½	2474	1242
Indivior	296⅛	-¼	336¼	197⅛
PZ Cussons	192¼	-4⅛	243½	182¼
Reckitt Benckiser	6454xd	-110	6808	5391
Real Estate				
Assura	63⅛xd	-⅛	75⅛	59⅛
Big Yellow Gp	1207	-26	1724	1200
British Land	406¼	-3¼	556⅛	406⅛
Captl & Count Prop	115⅛xd	-1⅛	179¼	115⅛
CLS Hldgs	171¼	-3⅛	235½	171¼
Derwent London	2408xd	-14	3679	2352
Grainger	263⅛	-3⅛	319¼	258¼
Grt Portland Est	737		779	700½
Hammerson	21⅛	-⅛	39⅛	19
Land Securities	619⅛xd	-8⅛	813¼	617
LondonMetric Prop	205¼xd	-3¼	285¼	201¼
Primary Hlth Prop	130½	-1⅛	162¼	130½
Safestore Hldgs	978½	-3½	1418	978½
Savills	923xd	-34	1450	902
SEGRO	889⅛xd	-16⅛	1436½	889⅛
Shaftesbury	397	-5⅛	662	397
Sirius Real Estate	80⅛	-¼	144	78⅛
Supermarket Income	120	-3	133	116½
Target Healthcare	106⅛	-⅛	119¼	106
TR Property IT	340	-10½	504	340
Tritax Big Box	162⅛	-1	249	158¼
Tritax Eurobox	79¼	+⅛	117¼	79½
UK Comm Prop	65	-1¼	93⅛	65
Unite Group	1017	-12	1207	990¼
Urban Logistics	164½	-7½	199	118½
Workspace Gp	502	-10½	899½	498⅛
Retailers				
ASOS	676	-12½	3345	663
B&M	347	-5¼	644	344⅛
Burberry Gp	1772	-1	2063	1482
Currys	64½xd	-1½	140⅛	58⅛
Dr. Martens	260	+3¼	429¼	182⅛
Dunelm Gp	748	+25	1486	670½
Frasers Group	799½	-21½	949½	562½
Greggs	1959xd	-37	3416	1804
Howden Joinery	583	-17	975⅛	552⅛
Inchcape	737	-19	928	647
JD Sports Fashion	125⅛	-1¼	234	102⅛
Kingfisher	243⅛	-3¼	370½	229⅛
Marks & Spencer	120¼	-1¼	256⅛	116⅛
Moonpig	200¼	-5⅛	384⅛	175⅛
Next	5802	-26	8426	5732
Ocado Gp	623¼	-56	1897½	623¼
Pets at Home Gp	310⅛	-5⅛	519	278
Sainsbury(J)	202⅛	-7⅛	306½	197⅛
SSP Group	226⅛	-⅛	303¼	201¼
Tesco	237¼	-8	303⅛	237¼
WH Smith	1456½	+10	1805½	1311
Software & Computer Services				
Auction Tech	817	-36	1516	749
Aveva Gp	3048	-2	4032	1924
Baltic Classifieds	140xd		253	99¼
Bytes Technology	426⅛	-4⅛	578½	399
Computacenter	2134		2978	2134
Darktrace	380⅛	+10⅛	985	287⅛
FDM Group	712xd	-26	1338	712
Kainos Gp	1378	-92	2084	954½
Micro Focus Intl	520	+1	520	256¼
NCC Grp	225	-11½	291½	167⅛
Playtech	452⅛	-12	770	416
Sage Group	722⅛	-16¼	853¼	595⅛
Softcat	1214	-27	2240	1214
Support Services				
Ashtead Gp	4277	-49	6450	3359
Babcock Intl	318⅛	-5⅛	380¼	295⅛
Biffa	393⅛xd	-3	415¼	283
Bunzl	2810	-87	3163	2397
DCC	4896	-170	6486	4750
Diploma	2526	-50	3460	2158
Essentra	189⅛	-8¼	357	189⅛
Experian	2722	-12	3667	2285
Ferguson	9934	-216	13305	8680
Hays	118⅛	-3⅛	175⅛	109
Homeserve	1188	-1	1190	608½
Intertek Gp	3965	-113	5782	3873
IWG	135⅛	-6¼	310	135⅛
Mitie Group	72¼	-4½	79¼	46½
Network Int	292¼	+14¼	371¼	171¼
Pagegroup	398¼xd	-17¼	680½	383¼
Rentokil Initial	536⅛xd	-10⅛	636¼	444½
RS Group	1054	-38	1255	812
Serco	165xd	-6½	188¼	121¼
Travis Perkins	834⅛	-19⅛	1746	805
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
discoverIE Gp	755	-15	1180	597
Spirent Comms	257xd	-11	298¼	215⅛
Telecoms				
Airtel Africa	139⅛	-4⅛	170⅛	93¼
BT Gp	140½xd	-2¼	200⅛	135¼
Helios Towers	122¼	+½	189	110
Telecom Plus	1732	-38	2250	1010
Vodafone Gp	107⅛	-2	139½	107
Tobacco				
Br Am Tob	3405½	-89½	3628	2512½
Imperial Brands	1902xd	-45	1952½	1486
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	116⅛	-5½	478	116⅛
Carnival	769¼	-3¼	1766⅛	619⅛
Compass Gp	1907	-21	1969½	1440
Dominos Pizza	244xd	-5¼	465¼	226⅛
easyJet	347	-6¼	727⅛	345½
Entain	1202xd	-23	2377	1075½
FirstGroup	122⅛	-⅛	139½	85¼
Flutter Ent	10325	-170	15890	7614
Intercontl Htls	4813xd	-17	5338	4193
Intl Cons Airl	107	-1	188	102⅛
Mitchells & Butlers	165⅛	-3⅛	267¼	149⅛
National Express	189⅛	-2⅛	284¼	166⅛
Trainline	364¼	+3	409	159
TUI AG	132½	-⅛	343⅛	123½
Wetherspoon (JD)	509½	-13½	1095	471¼
Whitbread	2669	+6	3438	2431
Wizz Air Hldgs	2024	-129	5398	1695
Utilities				
Centrica	82⅛	-2½	91	50⅛
National Grid	1053½	-26½	1245½	884⅛
Pennon	939	-26	1245	916
Severn Trent	2684	-102	3211	2603
United Utilities	1039	-32½	1176½	968⅛

*Ex-Dividend

Source: The Press Association

Record results at Zara owner lift the gloom

by ***Archie Mitchell***

ZARA owner Inditex posted record sales and profits in its first results since Marta Ortega Perez took over from her father.

The world's largest fashion retailer said sales in the six months to July 31 hit £12.8bn, up 24.5pc from a year earlier. Profits rose 30pc to £3.5bn.

Inditex, which also owns Pull & Bear, Bershka, Massimo Dutti and Stradivarius, said shoppers snapped up its spring and summer collections.

Its autumn and winter clothing has so far been 'very well received', although analysts warned demand could be hit as an energy price crunch grips Europe. Shares jumped 3.8pc on the Spanish stock exchange leaving it worth £59.1bn.

Inditex is majority-owned by Amancio Ortega, Spain's richest man, who has a 59.3pc stake worth £36bn.

Now 86, he founded Zara with his ex-wife Rosalia in 1975 in Galicia, where it is still based.

His daughter Marta, 38, (*pictured*) took over as chairman in April having worked there for 16 years. A keen equestrian, she has a degree in business management and speaks five languages. There has been little change in strategy since the shake-up, in which board secretary Oscar Garcia Maceiras became chief executive.

Most clothing is made close to its head office in the remote Spanish town of Arteixo, allowing it to keep up with trends and refresh stock quicker.

The proximity has also shielded it from higher shipping costs and some supply chain chaos.

Inditex was slow to build its online offering, but has seen website sales soar – they are expected to account for almost a third of its sales by 2024.

It has ramped up its efforts to break into the US in the past three years, which now makes up a fifth of all sales. Inditex, which has 6,370 stores and 162,450 staff, said sales since August have been 11pc higher than the same time last year.

But supply chain disruption could escalate and it is bringing forward deliveries of some winter clothing to ensure strong supplies of clothes made in Asia, where it buys basic items such as underwear and T-shirts.

It plans to put up prices this autumn by around 5pc to offset soaring input costs. But it is bracing for a hit from the soaring cost of living.

Global Data clothing analyst Darcey Jupp said it had proven itself 'an inimitable force' in the global market. Jupp said: 'The clear focus on enhancing product ranges and customer experience is paying off, as it experienced a significant increase in store traffic.

'With Europe accounting for around 60pc of sales, and energy prices in the region remaining at unprecedented levels, Inditex should brace for a downturn in demand in the fourth quarter.'

Blackstone in talks to buy insurer

by ***Amy-Jo Crowley***

BLACKSTONE is in exclusive talks about taking control of British specialist insurer Ascot.

The US private equity giant has been looking to invest via one of its Tactical Opportunities fund.

A deal would probably value Ascot at over £2bn. Founded in 2001, it provides property and casualty insurance products through its Lloyd's of London and Bermuda market platforms. In the US its brands are Ascot US and Ethos.

Owner CPPIB, Canada's largest pension fund, paid £1.1bn for it in 2016. But a deal could fall through as Blackstone has concerns about Ascot's growth prospects, which could be hurt by market volatility from interest rates and hurricanes later this year.

Private equity firm Cinven and activist Elliott Advisors made offers in the summer but dropped out soon after, sources said.

Insurers have been hit hard this year. Lloyd's of London last week said it has suffered £1.1bn losses related to claims from the war in Ukraine, while Direct Line shares fell in July amid rising costs of car insurance claims. Blackstone and CPPIB declined to comment.

Citigroup opens Malaga hub amid staff burnout concerns

by ***John-Paul Ford Rojas***

WALL Street giant Citigroup has opened a hub in Malaga to offer its staff a better work-life balance.

The US firm chose 27 analysts from more than 3,000 applications across the world for the programme which was launched yesterday.

Most of the junior investment bankers are in their early 20s and the 16 men and 11 women includes one Briton and one dual Spanish-British national.

Between them they speak a total of 15 languages.

The scheme offers eight-hour days and work-free weekends, distinguishing it from the seven-day a week culture of the City and Wall Street.

It also offers an alternative lifestyle route at a time when it is harder to persuade some employees to go in to city-centre offices after the home-working of the pandemic.

A civic reception was yesterday being held in Malaga to mark the start of the project.

Scheme: Citigroup is sending junior bankers to Costa del Sol

Manolo Falco, Citigroup's global co-head of investment banking, insisted that it was 'not a gimmick' and had got off to a good start.

He told the Financial Times: 'We lose talent to private equity and tech, so we are eager to understand if we can stop that by offering a better work-life balance.'

Maria Diaz del Rio, chief of staff for the unit in Malaga, said: 'Sometimes banks burn out our analysts, so we want to prove they can work limited hours and still add value. When they are working on Mergers and Acquisitions deals, maybe we will ask them to work longer, but will compensate them with more holidays.'

Those who want to advance their career will have to move on from the Costa del Sol.

Staff who have performed well after two years will have the opportunity to apply for jobs elsewhere such as New York or London.

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AYR RTV

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
1.20 Baltic Voyage	1.20 Time Traveller
1.50 Hi Royal	1.50 Power Of Gold
2.25 Burj Malinka	2.25 TANASOQ (nap)
3.00 REVICH (nap)	3.00 Al Mubhir
3.35 My Little Queens	3.35 Remembering
4.10 Professional Widow	4.10 Asdaa
4.45 A Boy Named Ivy	4.45 Shimmering Sands
5.20 Global Humor (nb)	5.20 Monhammer

NEWMARKET – 3.35 REMEMBERING (nap).
NORTHERNER – 4.45 SHIMMERING SANDS (nap).

1.20 –BRITISH STALLION STUDS EBF NOVICE STAKES (4) (2-Y-O) £13,000 added (£7,020) 7f 50yds (14)

1 (12) 6 ARKENSTAAR 21 M Dods 9-7 ... B Curtis
2 (9) 04 BALTIC VOYAGE 27 R Beckett 9-7 ... R Hornby
3 (11) BEYOND REPROACH K R Burke 9-7 ... C Lee
4 (4) 57 CHUZZLEWIT 27 K Ryan 9-7 ... K Stott
5 (3) HILLS OF GOLD M Dods 9-7 ... G Lee
6 (7) 5 KNIGHTS SPEAR 18 T Easterby 9-7 ... D Allan
7 (2) MASTER SHERIDAN M & D Easterby 9-7 ... Joanna Mason
8 (10) 5 TIME TRAVELLER 39 R Fahey 9-7 ... Oisin Orr
9 (14) TIPP TOWN J J Quinn 9-7 ... J Hart
10 (6) L TWO RIVERS 27 K Dalgleish 9-7 ... C Rodriguez
11 (5) 84 VORTIGAN 12 M Dods 9-7 ... C Beasley
12 (13) YOUM SAEED K Ryan 9-7 ... S Gray
13 (8) LL PENELOPE'S SISTER 21 J Goldie 9-2 ... G Downing
14 (1) RUTHERGLEN ROSE K Dalgleish 9-2 ... B Garritty

Probable SP: 15-8 Baltic Voyage, 2 Chuzzlewit, 13-2 Time Traveller, 10 Youm Saeed, 12 Vortigan. **FAVOURITES: – – – – – – – 1 0 0 3**

1.50 –PHOENIX WEALTH SOLUTIONS EBF NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE) (5) (2-Y-O) £8,000 added (£4,123) 1m (10)

1 (6) AMERICAN OAK T Easterby 9-7 ... D Allan
2 (8) 5 ARTISAN DANCER 20 C & M Johnston 9-7 ... J Hart
3 (10) L BOY DOUGLAS 33 M Dods 9-7 ... C Beasley
4 (2) 44 CYNICAL 27 K Ryan 9-7 ... S Gray
5 (4) DESIGN (T) K R Burke 9-7 ... C Lee
6 (9) L EPONA PAS 78 J Goldie 9-7 ... G Downing
7 (7) 3 HI ROYAL 27 K Ryan 9-7 ... K Stott
8 (1) POWER OF GOLD H Palmer 9-7 ... T Marquand
9 (5) 4 REIDH 34 R Fahey 9-7 ... Oisin Orr
10 (3) 6 LOVELY LADY 16 K Dalgleish 9-2 ... C Rodriguez

Probable SP: Evens Hi Royal, 5 Reidh, 6 Power Of Gold, 13-2 Design, 10 Cynical, 16 Artisan Dancer. **FAVOURITES: – 3 1 1 0 – 3 1 0 2**

2.25 –BRANDINGHUB FOR SIGNS & GRAPHICS HANDICAP (5) £8,000 added (£3,996) 5f (22)

1 (8) 713613 BURJ MALINKA 20 (P) (D2BF) (S) Adrian Nicholls 4-9-13 ... B McHugh
2 (3) L92L92 NEVER DARK 7 (P) (D3) (S) I Jardine 5-9-13 ... D Tudhope
3 (21) 336863 PROSPECT 19 (GS) P Midgley 4-9-12 ... G Lee
4 (6) 0-68L83 CLAIM THE STARS 90 (T) T Easterby 3-9-11 ... D Fentiman
5 (9) 112193 REFUGE 9 (T) (D4) (GS) M & D Easterby 5-9-10 ... C Beasley
6 (12) 1151L-4 TRIPLE JAYE 19 (HP) (D4) T Easterby 4-9-9 ... D Allan
7 (10) 332657 LADY LADE 40 (D2) (G) K Dalgleish 3-9-9 ... B Garritty
8 (5) 034133 LITTLE MUDDY 7 (CDBF) (G) S Spencer 6-9-9 ... D Swift
9 (17) 461275 LADY CELIA 10 (D3) (S) R Fahey 5-9-7 ... Oisin Orr
10 (1) 215507 GOWANLAD 17 (P) (D) P Kirby 5-9-7 ... Ryan Sexton (5)
11 (11) 138159 LATIN FIVE 16 (D3) (GS) P Midgley 5-9-6 ... J Hart
12 (18) 775394 YAZAMAN 20 (D) K Ryan 4-9-6 ... K Stott
13 (16) 5505L8 HOT DIGGITY DOG 66 (V) K Dalgleish 3-9-6 ... C Rodriguez
14 (19) 434129 SIXCOR 14 (P) (C&D3) (GS) Miss L Perratt 4-9-4 ... H Russell (3)
15 (13) 123264 USTATH 15 (D3) (G) R Fell 6-9-0 ... B Curtis
16 (2) 4285L3 TANASOQ 22 (C&DD5) (G) J Goldie 9-8-13 ... Shannon Watts (7)
17 (15) L8LL35 ETERNAL HALO 40 (D) K Dalgleish 3-8-13 ... S Gray
18 (20) L744 BONITO CAVALO 22 J Goldie 3-8-10 ... G Downing
19 (7) 406959 KRAKEN POWER 20 (S) J Goldie 4-8-10 ... Amie Waugh (5)
20 (14) 355876 THE GLOAMING 79 (D2) (S) I Jardine 4-8-7 ... R Scott
21 (22) 553001 BURTONLODGE BEAUTY 20 (P) (D) (S) Miss L Perratt 3-8-7 Joanna Mason
22 (4) 6L9897 NODSASGOODASAWINK 20 (P) (GS) Miss L Perratt 4-8-7 . W Pyle (7)

Probable SP: 11-2 Burj Malinka, 6 Never Dark, 7 Little Muddy, 10 Ustath, Prospect. **FAVOURITES: – 0 0 0 0 – 2 3 0 0 (W 9-2).AGES: – 4 3 6 4 – 3 4 4 5**

3.00 –VIRGIN BET KILKERRAN CUP HANDICAP (2) £30,000 added (£15,462) 1m 2f (14)

1 (1) 470021 WHAT'S THE STORY 45 (P) (C&D) (GS) K Dalgleish 8-10-0 ... K Stott
2 (2) 1-03239 REVICH 28 (V) (C) (S) R Spencer 6-10-0 ... D Tudhope
3 (7) 360037 CHICHESTER 26 (V) (C&D) (G) K Dalgleish 5-9-13 ... C Rodriguez
4 (6) L37127 SIR CHAUVELIN 4 (C) (GS) J Goldie 10-9-12 ... G Downing
5 (10) 456644 FAYLAQ 8 (S) Ewan Whillans 6-9-6 ... R Scott
6 (12) 5424L0 FISHABLE 20 (PT) (D3) (S) T Easterby 5-9-5 ... D Allan
7 (9) 2115-04 YORKSHIRE LADY 27 (D) (GS) M & D Easterby 4-9-5 . Joanna Mason
8 (4) 0240L1 LOVE IS GOLDEN 14 (P) (GS) C & M Johnston 4-9-4 ... C Beasley
9 (13) 1-L42 AL MUBHIR 18 (T) W Haggas 3-9-4 ... T Marquand
10 (5) 4-62580 MR ALAN 26 (P) (C) (S) G Boughey 3-9-3 ... C Lee
11 (14) 498784 COCKALORUM 14 (D3) (S) R Fell 7-9-2 ... B Curtis
12 (11) LL1540 SOCIETY RED 47 (D7) (G) R Fahey 8-9-2 ... Oisin Orr
13 (3) 143136 TILSITT 20 (PT) (C&DC2D) (GS) R M Smith 5-9-1 ... R Hornby
14 (8) 02-8473 FIRST IMPRESSION 11 (C&DCD) (S) J J Quinn 5-9-0 ... J Hart

Probable SP: 7-2 Al Mubhir, 6 What's The Story, 7 Love Is Golden, 8 First Impression. **FAVS: – 0 1 0 3 – 3 1 0 3 (W 9-2). AGES: – 4 3 4 4 – 4 3 3 4**

TRACK FACTS: L-H course. GOING: Good to soft-good in places. STALLS: 5f centre; 7f outside; remainder inside.

3.35 –BRITISH STALLION STUDS SCOTTISH PREMIER SERIES EBF FILLIES' HANDICAP (4) £17,000 added (£8,856) 1m 2f (11)

1 (2) 3L0684 THE FLYING GINGER 11 (P) (D) (GS) R Fell 4-9-11 ... B Curtis
2 (9) 5421 MISTY DANCER 20 (D) (S) S & E Crisford 3-9-9 ... R Hornby
3 (1) 433731 GOLDEN MELODY 12 (D) (S) T Easterby 4-9-9 ... D Allan
4 (7) 356212 DUNGAR GLORY 12 A Keatley 3-9-8 ... Ryan Sexton (5)
5 (5) 321 REMEMBERING 31 (H) (G) W Haggas 3-9-8 ... T Marquand
6 (10) 331442 SMILING JAYNE 20 (D) (G) D O'Meara 3-9-6 ... D Tudhope
7 (6) 1-12525 MY LITTLE QUEENS 21 (C&DD) (S) R Fahey 4-9-5 ... Oisin Orr
8 (4) 378574 BOLLIN MARGARET 13 (P) (C&DD4) (G) T Easterby 5-9-3 ... D Fentiman
9 (11) 234255 CELESTIAL STAR 27 K Dalgleish 3-8-11 ... G Lee
10 (3) 2333L7 COSA SARA 10 (C2) (G) J Goldie 4-8-9 ... Amie Waugh (5)
11 (8) 40-6735 GIVE GRACE 33 I Jardine 3-8-4 ... S Gray

Probable SP: 9-4 Remembering, 9-2 Misty Dancer, 6 Golden Melody. **FAVOURITES: – – – 1 2 – 0 1 2 1 (W 9-2). AGES: – – – 3 3 – 3 3 3 4**

4.10 –SIGNSAFE TRAFFIC HANDICAP (DIV 1) (5) £8,000 added (£3,996) 1m (10)

1 (1) 421085 PROFESSIONAL WIDOW 25 (P) (D2) (S) R Spencer 4-10-1 . D Tudhope
2 (6) 252750 DULLA BHATTI 11 (P) (G) M Dods 4-9-12 ... C Beasley
3 (5) L466L0 CASSY O 19 (B) (C&DCD) (GS) T Easterby 5-9-12 ... D Allan
4 (4) 7-L5614 ASDAA 39 (P) (D2) (G) C & M Johnston 6-9-10 ... J Hart
5 (9) LL0748 PARYS MOUNTAIN 3 (HT) (D3) (GS) T Easterby 8-9-9 .. Brandon Wilkie (7)
6 (7) 92-L076 CISCO DISCO 42 (V) (S) R Fahey 4-9-8 ... Oisin Orr
7 (10) 46498L TOMMY G 7 (C&D2C5D) (G) J Goldie 9-9-6 ... T Marquand
8 (8) 16 WOTEVER NEXT 143 (T) (S) R Fahey 4-9-6 ... Ryan Sexton (5)
9 (3) 9-3L224 RED ASTAIRE 10 T Easterby 3-9-1 ... D Fentiman
10 (2) 00-83 SUN HILL 20 M & D Easterby 3-8-7 ... Joanna Mason

Probable SP: 9-2 Sun Hill, 6 Professional Widow, 7 Red Astaire, Asdaa, Cassy O. **FAVOURITES: – – – – – – – – – 3 (W 9-12). AGES: – – – – – – – – – 4**

4.45 –SIGNSAFE TRAFFIC HANDICAP (DIV 2) (5) £8,000 added (£3,996) 1m (10)

1 (9) 224004 A BOY NAMED IVY 40 (CD) M Dods 4-10-1 ... C Beasley
2 (8) 3123L6 GOLDEN SANDS 47 C & M Johnston 3-9-10 ... J Hart
3 (1) 010545 END ZONE 21 (D) (GS) R Fell 5-9-10 ... B Curtis
4 (6) L07L47 DEVILWALA 13 (P) (G) T Easterby 4-9-9 ... Oisin Orr
5 (5) 1LL5 ESHTORA 97 S & E Crisford 3-9-8 ... T Marquand
6 (10) 0-72131 SHIMMERING SANDS 28 (G) M & D Easterby 3-9-6 ... S Gray
7 (4) 1-27895 BASHFUL 47 (P) I Jardine 4-9-6 ... C Lee
8 (3) 313L3L MOTARAJEL 16 (P) (D3) (G) T Easterby 5-9-2 ... D Fentiman
9 (2) 54412L CHINESE SPIRIT 16 (C&DCD2BF) (GS) Miss L Perratt 8-8-9 ... G Lee
10 (7) 632584 MAC AILEY 15 (B) (D) (S) T Easterby 6-8-9 ... D Allan

Probable SP: 9-4 Shimmering Sands, 3 A Boy Named Ivy, 8 Eshtora, End Zone. **FAVOURITES: – – – – – – – – – 0 (W 9-8). AGES: – – – – – – – – – 3**

5.20 –VIRGIN BET HANDICAP (6) £7,000 added (£3,456) 7f 50yds (14)

1 (10) 220632 GLOBAL HUMOR 9 (B) (C&D2D) (GS) J Goldie 7-9-13 ... T Marquand
2 (4) 714LL7 HAJJAM 3 (T) (C&D2CD5) (GS) Liam Bailey 8-9-13 ... B Curtis
3 (9) 809455 FLYING PURSUIT 8 (T) (CD) (S) T Easterby 9-9-11 ... D Allan
4 (5) 166583 NOVAK 13 (D2) (G) I Jardine 3-9-10 ... Ryan Sexton (5)
5 (1) 433122 MONHAMMER 21 (DBF) Miss L Perratt 4-9-9 ... H Russell (3)
6 (14) 722106 FAR FROM A RUBY 12 (C) K Scott 5-9-9 ... B Garritty
7 (2) 346722 TIMBUKONE 29 (V) (BF) K Dalgleish 3-9-9 ... C Rodriguez
8 (12) 4-64687 TURBO COMMAND 15 (V) (D) Mrs A C Hamilton 5-9-9 ... G Lee
9 (8) 7L4319 EMERALD LADY 27 (D) K R Burke 3-9-7 ... P-L Jamin (3)
10 (6) 86-570 MIN TILL 9 M & D Easterby 3-9-6 ... C Beasley
11 (7) 74-L SUPERSTAR DJ 103 R Spencer 3-9-5 ... K Stott
12 (13) 242344 RUM GOING ON 20 (P) (DBF) J J Quinn 3-9-3 ... J Hart
13 (11) 9L6774 MICK MCHUGH 20 (TV) D O'Meara 3-9-1 ... D Tudhope
14 (3) L7-6446 ONE MORE TRY 17 (P) R Fahey 3-9-0 ... Oisin Orr

Probable SP: 9-2 Monhammer, 5 Timbukone, 7 Rum Going On, 8 Global Humor, Emerald Lady. **FAVOURITES & 2021:** No corresponding race.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Depends on stalls on straight course. **Top jockey:** Daniel Tudhope. **Top trainer:** J Goldie. **Placed in the race last year:** 3.00 Chichester (1st); 3.35 Bollin Margaret (1st); 4.45 Mac Ailey (3rd). **Headgear first time:** 1.50 Design, 3.35 Remembering, 4.10 Professional Widow, Wotever Next, 5.20 Hajjam, Mick McHugh. **Longest traveller:** Baltic Voyage (1.20) 415 miles. **Drop in Class:** 1.20 Baltic Voyage is down 2 grades on last run (Class 2 to Class 4); Chuzzlewit (5); 1.50 Hi Royal (3); 2.25 Sixcor (2); 4.10 Tommy G (2). **First run since wind surgery:** None today.

PONTEFRACT RTV

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
1.42 Lezardrieux	1.42 Magical Effect
2.17 Rez	2.17 Rez
2.52 Desert Games	2.52 Desert Games
3.27 Colinton	3.27 Amalfi Bay
4.02 Al Simmo	4.02 Another Romance
4.37 Dereham	4.37 Infiniti
5.10 Chantico	5.10 Bamboor
5.40 Garden Oasis	5.40 Regal Mirage

1.42 –APPRENTICE HANDICAP (5) £7,000 added (£3,456) 6f (16)

1 (14) 51L DANDY SPIRIT 14 (B) (C&D2) (G) R Fell 5-10-2 J Peate
2 (10) 695 NEARLY A GONNA 42 (V) (D4) (GS) T Easterby 5-10-2 S B Kirrane
3 (15) 383 CAPTAIN VALLO 19 (P) (D2) Phillip Makin 4-10-1 Alexander Voikhansky (7)
4 (8) 42L TRIGGERED 18 (D3) (G) M Loughnane 6-10-1 Gina Mangan
5 (9) 0L1 LEZARDRIEUX (5Ibex) 9 (C&DD5) (GS) G Tuer 5-10-1 O Stammers
6 (7) 385 SOMEWHERE SECRET 7 (V) (D5) (S) R Menzies 8-10-0 Paula Muir
7 (13) 257 DREAM TOGETHER 32 (C&DD2BF) (G) J O'Keeffe 5-10-0 S Feilden (5)
8 (1) 626 CARLTON AND CO 24 M & D Easterby 3-9-13 ... A Farragher
9 (4) 273 MISS BRITAIN 43 (D) (G) Gemma Tutty 3-9-11 Laura Coughlan
10 (5) 614 ROUND THE ISLAND 9 (P) (C&D6D3) (GS) Simon Whitaker 9-9-2 Mark Winn (3)
11 (2) L90 RHYME SCHEME 17 (PT) (G) P Winks 5-8-13 Elisha Whittington
12 (6) 94L FINAL FRONTIER 31 (H) (D3) R Carr 9-8-13 ... J Fisher
13 (11) 709 FLAVIUS TITUS 31 (B) (D2) (G) D Brooke 7-8-11 ... C Murtagh
14 (3) 351 MAGICAL EFFECT (4Ibex) 9 (V) (C&D2D2) (GS) R Carr 10-8-11 B Sanderson
15 (16) 849 THE RETRIEVER 27 (V) M Hammond 7-8-11 ... A Brookes (3)
16 (12) LL0 DIRTY LEEDS 43 J Camacho 3-8-10 ... A Breslin

Probable SP: 10-3 Magical Effect, 4 Lezardrieux, 8 Round The Island, Captain Vallo, 10 Somewhere Secret.

2.17 –NOVICE STAKES (DIV 1) (5) (2-Y-O) £6,000 added (£3,240) 6f (11)

1 (9) 21 HOUGOUMONT 43 (H) (D) J Camacho 9-8 ... D Nolan
2 (1) 99 BARROLO 14 G Tuer 9-4 ... S James
3 (11) CUTTLESTONE BRIDGE Steph Hollinshead 9-4 B Sanderson (3)
4 (4) 6 DOWNTOWN DUBAI 33 C & M Johnston 9-4 .. F Norton
5 (6) 0 NO BARRIER 27 K Ryan 9-4 ... T Eaves
6 (10) 94 NOBLE TITLE 50 D O'Meara 9-4 ... Mark Winn (7)
7 (7) 4 REZ 15 R Fahey 9-4 ... T Hamilton
8 (8) L02 SHINE'S AMBITION 13 R Fell 9-4 ... J Peate (5)
9 (3) GUIDANCE L Mullaney 8-13 ... S B Kirrane (3)
10 (2) MY DELILAH D Loughnane 8-13 ... P J McDonald
11 (5) ROCKONMECCA M Dods 8-13 ... P Dennis

Probable SP: 5-2 Rez, 3 Shine's Ambition, 5 Hougoumont, 6 Noble Title, 10 Downtown Dubai, 12 No Barrier.

2.52 –NOVICE STAKES (DIV 2) (5) (2-Y-O) £6,000 added (£3,240) 6f (10)

1 (3) 64 DERWENT BOY 21 J Camacho 9-7 ... D Nolan
2 (10) 3 DESERT GAMES 15 R Fahey 9-7 ... J Garritty
3 (8) L HARRY'S HALO 70 K Foot 9-7 ... T Eaves
4 (6) HOBSON POINT K R Burke 9-7 ... S James
5 (5) 42 QUANTUM IMPACT 15 R Beckett 9-7 ... H Crouch
6 (1) 9 READY RECKONER 19 J Chapple-Hyam 9-7 .. L Morris
7 (9) SMOOTH RED G Tuer 9-7 ... O Stammers (3)
8 (2) 08 HAVANAWING 34 M Walford 9-2 ... P Hanagan
9 (7) 04 PENNY GHENT 55 Simon Whitaker 9-2 ... P Dennis
10 (4) L TILLYBOB 26 D Loughnane 9-2 ... P J McDonald

Probable SP: 9-4 Quantum Impact, 5-2 Desert Games, 4 Hobson Point, 13-2 Derwent Boy, 12 Ready Reckoner.

3.27 –HANDICAP (4) £11,000 added (£5,616) 1m 4f 5yds (11)

1 (5) 224 COLINTON 14 (P) (D5) K Scott 4-10-2 ... S James
2 (7) 32-1 BILLY NO MATES 47 (D) (S) M Dods 6-10-2 .. P Dennis
3 (6) D13 ARRANGE 19 (D) M Todhunter 4-10-1 ... D Nolan
4 (3) 2-61 ZHANG FEI 31 (P) (G) P & O Cole 4-10-1 ... P Hanagan
5 (2) 228 SOLAR JOE 21 (C) (G) R Fahey 4-10-1 ... C Murtagh
6 (4) 3L1 BLISTERING BARNEY 27 (D2) (GS) C Kellett 6-9-13 P Mathers
7 (1) 145 BOOKMARK 13 (CD2) (G) M Loughnane 4-9-10 .. L Morris
8 (11) 383 AMALFI BAY 20 (D2) (S) H & R Charlton 4-9-10 T Greatrex
9 (8) 2LL CARRIGILLIHY 14 (C&DCD) (GS) T Easterby 4-9-4 S B Kirrane (3)
10 (9) 023 HILTS 47 (DBF3) (S) J O'Keeffe 3-9-2 ... J Garritty
11 (10) 215 DARK MYSTERY 14 (D) I Williams 3-9-1 . P J McDonald

Probable SP: 9-2 Billy No Mates, 5 Zhang Fei, 11-2 Hilts, 7 Blistering Barney, 8 Arrange, Colinton, 10 Amalfi Bay.

TRACK FACTS: L-H course. GOING: Good-good to soft in places. STALLS: Inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** Low. **Top jockey:** Paul Hanagan. **Top trainer:** R Fahey. **Placed in the race last year:** 4.37 Flint Hill (1st). **Headgear first time:** 1.42 The Retriever, 2.17 Hougoumont, 4.02 Anadora, 4.37 Visite Officielle, 5.40 Gainsbourg, Vaccine. **Longest traveller:** Quantum Impact (2.52) 214 miles.

4.02 –FILLIES' HANDICAP (2) £30,000 added (£15,462) 6f (8)

1 (2) 331 ANOTHER ROMANCE 14 (T) (D) (G) S & E Crisford 3-9-10 P Hanagan
2 (1) 7L0 PRINCESS OLLY 50 D Loughnane 3-9-6 ... S James
3 (8) 102 AL SIMMO 14 (C&DD6) (G) Steph Hollinshead 5-9-5 P J McDonald
4 (6) 800 ANADORA 29 (P) (D) K Ryan 3-8-13 ... T Eaves
5 (3) 666 ESPRESSOO 17 C & M Johnston 3-8-13 ... F Norton
6 (5) 710 INTERNATIONAL GIRL 29 (D2) (G) R Fahey 4-8-10 .. C Murtagh
7 (4) 33L COMMANDMENT 35 (C&DDBF) (S) E Dunlop 3-8-7 .. L Morris
8 (7) 288 RUN THIS WAY 43 (C&DD) (S) P Midgley 4-8-7 Josephine Gordon

Probable SP: 9-4 Another Romance, 4 Al Simmo.

4.37 –HANDICAP (5) £7,000 added (£3,456) 2m 1f 27yds (13)

1 (9) 274 FLINT HILL 32 (C&D2) (GS) Ruth Jefferson 6-10-0 P Hanagan
2 (5) 681 WYNFORD 45 (BT) (CD) (S) R Menzies 9-9-12 D Nolan
3 (2) 7L5 DOUBLETHETROUBLE 26 L Wadham 4-9-10 . T Eaves
4 (13) 5U4 SOPHAR SOGOOD 20 J Butler 5-9-9 Alexander Voikhansky (7)
5 (4) 539- VISITE OFFICIELLE 296 (PT) (S) M Hammond 4-9-8 P J McDonald
6 (7) 34L BEGGARMAN 32 (P) H Morrison 5-9-8 ... S James
7 (6) 626 MANJAAM 22 (G) Mrs Stella Barclay 9-9-8 . Josephine Gordon
8 (10) 3L8 HELLENISTA 11 (P) (G) T Easterby 4-9-8 .. S B Kirrane (3)
9 (1) 121 INFINITI 16 (G) K Frost 9-9-7 ... A Brookes (5)
10 (11) 361 FLYING STANDARD 38 (G) C Wall 5-9-7 ... L Morris
11 (8) 436 OVERHAUGH STREET 26 (C&D) (GS) E De Giles 9-9-5 Laura Coughlan (5)
12 (12) 9-34 ZUCKERBERG J14 (P) J Candlish 6-9-4 . Mark Winn (7)
13 (3) 1L1 DEREHAM 84 (C) (S) J Berry 6-9-4 ... Gina Mangan (5)

Probable SP: 10-3 Infiniti, 4 Dereham, 6 Flying Standard, 13-2 Wynford, 10 Flint Hill, Beggarman.

5.10 –MAIDEN STAKES (5) £8,000 added (£4,320) 1m 6yds (11)

1 (1) 6 ANOTHER QUIRKE 10 M Walford 4-9-7 ... J Garritty
2 (4) BAMBOOR W Haggas 3-9-7 ... A Farragher (5)
3 (9) BLUE HAWAII J152 T Collier 7-9-7 ... T Eaves
4 (6) CHANTICO R Varian 3-9-7 ... R Da Silva
5 (3) 222- FIRTH OF CLYDE 353 (BF4) P & O Cole 3-9-7 . P Hanagan
6 (5) POKER FACE S & E Crisford 3-9-7 ... H Crouch
7 (2) 22 TOPOMANIA 122 (BF) James Horton 3-9-7 . NON RUNNER
8 (8) 73 TOTAL JOY 34 C Wall 3-9-7 ... Josephine Gordon
9 (7) 0- CAPPARIS 398 R Fahey 3-9-2 ... T Hamilton
10 (11) 59 CURLEY ROSE 13 J Ferguson 3-9-2 ... S James
11 (10) WHISPERING SONG Sir M Prescott 3-9-2 ... L Morris

Probable SP: 10-3 Firth Of Clyde, 4 Bamboor, Chantico, 15-2 Poker Face, 14 Blue Hawaii.

5.40 –HANDICAP (4) £11,000 added (£5,616) 1m 6yds (16)

1 (11) 913 ALPHA CRU 20 (V) (C&D2D2) (GS) D O'Meara 4-9-13 D Nolan
2 (13) 017 GARDEN OASIS 17 (P) (C&DD6) (G) T Easterby 7-9-13 S B Kirrane (3)
3 (2) 102 MANGO BOY 34 (B) (D) (S) C Wall 4-9-11 ... L Morris
4 (3) 01L VENTURA RASCAL 42 (C&D2D) (G) K Ryan 5-9-11 . T Eaves
5 (9) 458 MUHTASHIM 54 (D2) (S) E Dunlop 3-9-11 ... P Hanagan
6 (8) 304 COPPER AND FIVE 19 (D3) (G) R Carr 6-9-10 Josephine Gordon
7 (14) 964 VACCINE 12 (B) (S) M Dods 3-9-9 ... P Dennis
8 (4) 31-L BUSHFIRE 89 (D) (S) H Morrison 3-9-9 ... S James
9 (5) 4-04 REGAL MIRAGE 18 (C3) (GS) T Easterby 8-9-8 . J Garritty
10 (15) 147 CROWNTHORPE 14 (D6) (S) R Fahey 7-9-8 T Hamilton
11 (6) 256 MR TRICK 30 (S) I Williams 4-9-7 ... P Mathers
12 (1) 420 GIVE IT SOME TEDDY 21 (D6) (GS) T Easterby 8-9-6 F Norton
13 (7) 455 GAINSBOURG 45 (P) (C&DDBF) (S) E Bethell 4-9-5 P J McDonald
14 (12) 151 SHAHNAZ 27 (P) (D3) (GS) Gemma Tutty 3-9-1 Laura Coughlan (5)
15 (16) 566 FREDDY ROBINSON 14 B Ellison 3-8-10 A Brookes (5)
16 (10) 354 BRUNELLO BREEZE 40 T Tate 3-8-6 ... K Schofield (5)

Probable SP: 11-2 Shahnaz, 7 Mango Boy, Alpha Cru, 10 Regal Mirage, Crownthorpe, Brunello Breeze, Bushfire.

Drop in Class: 1.42 Dandy Spirit is down 2 grades on last run (Class 3 to Class 5); 2.17 No Barrier (3); 5.10 Curley Rose (2); 5.40 Garden Oasis (2); Bushfire (2). **First run since wind surgery:** None today.

YARMOUTH SSR

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
1.35 Lelabad	1.35 Mimoset
2.10 Glenfinnan	2.10 Vaguely Royal
2.45 Pinafore	2.45 Ananda
3.20 Turquoise Diamond	3.20 Nammos
3.55 Valley Forge	3.55 Valley Forge
4.30 Bellstreet Bridie	4.30 Oriole
5.05 Aphelios	5.05 Sir Oliver
5.35 Nurseclaire	5.35 Making Music

1.35 –AT THE RACES APP MARKET MOVERS HANDICAP (6) £7,500 added (£3,726) 7f 3yds (16)

1 (7) 225341 SPLIT ELEVENS 25 (P) (D2) (G) J Butler 4-9-13 ... Rossa Ryan
2 (6) 254434 LELABAD 18 (V) W Knight 3-9-10 ... N Callan
3 (10) 023 MIMOSET 17 R Guest 3-9-9 ... D Probert
4 (11) 6847U4 THE SPOTLIGHT KID 22 D Ivory 3-9-8 ... C Fallon
5 (13) 44-9962 QUEEN'S COMPANY 18 J Feilden 3-9-8 ... D E Hogan
6 (9) 54L134 ALAFDHAL 57 (P) (C) (S) P McEntee 4-9-7 ... J P Spencer
7 (8) 588LLL PISELLI MOLLI 56 (C) (G) D Shaw 4-9-6 ... T P Queally
8 (12) 5-L50L ISLE OF HOPE 15 (P) D P Quinn 3-9-6 ... C Hutchinson (5)
9 (16) L-37532 HI HO SILVER 25 (C&D2D2) (G) C Wall 8-9-4 ... Kaiya Fraser (7)
10 (4) 0-5LL5 MEASURED MOMENTS 41 J Butler 3-9-2 ... G Wood
11 (3) 4039-54 LITTLE SUNFLOWER 25 (C&D) (G) W Stone 4-9-2 ... J Mitchell
12 (14) 2253L0 KHURUMBI 13 (P) L Dace 3-9-1 ... T Fisher (7)
13 (1) 445LL2 PLANTATREE 25 A Carson 3-8-12 ... Jimmy Quinn
14 (15) 645257 CHLOELLIE 71 (D4) (S) J R Jenkins 7-8-12 ... L Steward
15 (5) 9-05687 ELJAYTEE 71 (B) J Berry 4-8-12 ... J F Egan
16 (2) 763238 RAVI ROAD 22 (P) M Usher 3-8-10 ... R Havlin

Probable SP: 7-2 Split Elevens, 11-2 Lelabad, 7 Alafdhal, Hi Ho Silver.

2.10 –BRITISH STALLION STUDS EBF MAIDEN STAKES (4) (2-Y-O) £9,950 added (£5,373) 1m 3yds (7)

1 (1) 5 ALMARIN 20 Patrick Owens 9-7 ... L Steward
2 (2) AUSSIE MYSTIC C Fellowes 9-7 ... D Probert
3 (5) CHARLATAN D M Simcock 9-7 ... J P Spencer
4 (6) 42 GLENFINNAN 27 A Balding 9-7 ... R L Moore
5 (3) GOD OF FIRE S C Williams 9-7 ... A Atzeni
6 (7) 4 MAASAI MARA 41 J & T Gosden 9-7 ... C Fallon
7 (4) VAGUELY ROYAL J & T Gosden 9-7 ... R Havlin

Probable SP: 5-4 Glenfinnan, 11-4 Maasai Mara, 5 Vaguely Royal, 10 God Of Fire, 12 Charlatan, 16 Aussie Mystic.

2.45 –BRITISH EBF FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE) (DIV 1) (4) (2-Y-O) £9,950 added (£5,373) 6f 3yds (11)

1 (3) 4 ANANDA 20 (BF) J & T Gosden 9-2 ... R Havlin
2 (2) AZURE ANGEL R Varian 9-2 ... J Mitchell
3 (8) 45 DEBATER 71 H Palmer 9-2 ... Rossa Ryan
4 (6) 3 ETERNAL FAME 27 M Murphy & M Keady 9-2 ... J F Egan
5 (11) 2 EURYTHMICAL 26 K P De Foy 9-2 ... T Fisher (7)
6 (5) PASTICHE G Boughey 9-2 ... R L Moore
7 (10) PAY SCALE Dr J Scargill 9-2 ... G Wood
8 (1) 9 PINAFORE 13 W Haggas 9-2 ... C Fallon
9 (9) 74 POWEREDBYLOVE 19 R Cowell 9-2 ... A Atzeni
10 (7) SOPHIE'S WATCH E Dunlop 9-2 ... Collen Storey
11 (4) SPEED DIAL BAILEYS J Tate 9-2 ... N Callan

Probable SP: 5-2 Ananda, 9-2 Pinafore, 11-2 Eternal Fame, 13-2 Pastiche, 8 Debater, 10 Eurythmical, Azure Angel.

3.20 –BRITISH EBF FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE) (DIV 2) (4) (2-Y-O) £9,950 added (£5,373) 6f 3yds (11)

1 (6) 54 ALPINE GIRL 76 J Fanshawe 9-2 ... C Hutchinson (5)
2 (9) CANADIAN FIRE K P De Foy 9-2 ... N Callan
3 (5) 66 EMILY BELL 19 M Bell 9-2 ... L Steward
4 (7) 2 NAMMOS 13 H Palmer 9-2 ... Rossa Ryan
5 (4) 77 ORIGINAL THINKER 36 J & T Gosden 9-2 ... R Havlin
6 (3) 7 PHOENIX GLOW 19 M Channon 9-2 ... C Bishop
7 (10) 9 PREMIERE BEAUTY 47 S C Williams 9-2 ... D E Hogan
8 (11) RISOTTO J Chapple-Hyam 9-2 ... D Probert
9 (2) TURQUOISE DIAMOND W Haggas 9-2 ... C Fallon
10 (1) WILD SIDE G Boughey 9-2 ... R L Moore
11 (8) YOUNG AND FUN R Varian 9-2 ... A Atzeni

Probable SP: 5-2 Nammos, 9-2 Wild Side, 6 Young And Fun, Turquoise Diamond, 7 Alpine Girl, 15-2 Risotto.

3.55 –MOULTON NURSERIES HANDICAP (2) £20,000 added (£10,468) 1m 6f 17yds (7)

1 (3) L-51770 VALLEY FORGE 26 (D) (G) A Balding 4-10-2 ... D Probert
2 (5) 02-1L59 RAINBOW DREAMER 82 (P) (G) A King 9-10-1 ... G Bass (3)
3 (7) L-57476 BOSS POWER 47 (T) (CD) (G) Sir M Stoute 5-10-1 ... R L Moore
4 (6) 210L47 PROTECTED GUEST 18 (C4D) (G) G Margarson 7-10-0 ... T P Queally
5 (2) 51-35 TRAILA 19 D M Simcock 4-9-12 ... J P Spencer
6 (1) 27-5427 PRAIANO 29 (V) (S) R Varian 4-9-9 ... A Atzeni
7 (4) 42-5931 THE GADGET MAN 26 R Beckett 3-9-2 ... Rossa Ryan

Probable SP: 11-4 The Gadget Man, 4 Valley Forge, Traila, 9-2 Boss Power, 13-2 Praiano. **FAVS: 0 1 2 – 2 0 0 2 1 2 (W 9-2).**

4.30 –BRITISH EBF PREMIER FILLIES' HANDICAP (4) £16,000 added (£8,316) 1m 3f 104yds (10)

Cam hangs tough after Dan's defeat

MIKE DICKSON
Tennis Correspondent in Glasgow

CAM NORRIE stepped up to his role as the British No 1 with a stirring rearguard action that kept his team's Davis Cup hopes alive against the USA last night.

With Andy Murray left out of the singles, Norrie repaired the damage of an opening defeat for Dan Evans by overcoming his American counterpart Taylor Fritz 2-6, 7-6, 7-5.

That left Murray to partner world doubles No 1 Joe Salisbury in a late-night decider against Rajeev Ram and Jack Sock that would decide this opening round robin match.

A team loss would be survivable with matches to come against the Netherlands and Kazakhstan, but victory would put the hosts in charge as they try to reach November's World Group finals.

At a career-high ranking of eight, Norrie came perilously close to defeat in the second set before a passionate crowd that included his Glaswegian father David, who had flown all the way from New Zealand to watch. He took the tie-break 7-2 but failed to serve out the match at the first time of asking at 5-4 in the decider.

At 5-5 he broke to love with a series of rifled return winners though and made no mistake second time round.

It has been four years since the British team last played at the Emirates Arena, a regular venue in their glory years around the middle of the previous decade.

The atmosphere was deliberately subdued beforehand to acknowledge the national mourning. A lone piper played before the national anthems and there was no music or razzmatazz between games and points.

The attendance was nonetheless healthy for the 4pm start, with Murray getting the loudest cheer when the players came on and were introduced.

Murray was left out of the singles with the two selections going off the rankings and his late appearance last night would test the loyalty of his home crowd. It was a significant call from captain Leon Smith, because Evans' record in the Davis Cup against top 60 players was two wins from eight matches, far inferior to his overall tally when flying solo.

By the end of the contest it was two victories from nine, with a 6-4 4-6 6-4 defeat seeing him unable to prise open the defences of world No 29 Tommy Paul.

'I probably lost the match in the first set. It was a very slow court, it took a lot to get used to the balls. The balls were heavy, it was difficult,' Evans said. 'I had my chances but didn't take them. All credit to Tommy. I thought he served well when I had them.'

In the more simple old format of home and away matches the host nation was allowed to pick the surface to suit its needs.

But with the introduction of four-team groups, the decision is with organisers Kosmos and the International Tennis Federation, with the same environment at different group venues.

An indication of the court's speed was the 13 break points that the pair each had, Paul taking five to Evans' four.

There were long rallies galore, with the home player never quite managing to achieve his aim of rushing his baseline opponent sufficiently.

Evans, with a black ribbon on his shirt to mark the Queen's passing, struck first early in the second set but was unable to consolidate it.

That proved a problem throughout the match, although it appeared he had the momentum when he took the second set. At 3-4 in the decider he was broken again, but stayed in the contest by breaking back immediately with a high lob that landed just in the corner.

Serving to stay in it, Evans was broken for a final time and the British team was behind. But Norrie fought superbly to level it.

Cup battle: Norrie in action against Fritz last night GETTY IMAGES

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5.45 —WILLIAM HILL BET BOOST RACING LEAGUE RACE THIRTY-SIX (HANDICAP) (3) £50,000 added (£25,770) 1m 4f 98yds (12) ITV4

1 (3) 337142 **FAIR STAR 35 (P)** B Ellison 6-9-12 ... B Robinson
2 (11) 343L11 **SCAMPI 42 (H) (D3)** A Balding 4-9-9 ... S M Levey
3 (5) 36-402L **VINDOLANDA 26 (D2)** C Hills 6-9-7 ... D Muscutt
4 (4) L70222 **TRINITY GIRL 21 (C&D2D)** Jessica Macey 5-9-5 ... O McSweeney (5)
5 (9) 423241 **TRUE COURAGE 13 (V) (D3)** M Bell 4-9-4 ... R Dawson
6 (1) 421173 **SHAKE A LEG 54 (P) (D3)** J Camacho 5-9-4 ... P Mulrennan
7 (2) 344113 **POSTMARK 21 (HT) (BF)** M Harris 3-9-4 ... L Dettori
8 (7) L-03L37 **BLOW YOUR HORN 54 (C&D)** R Menzies 5-9-3 ... P Cosgrave
9 (6) 122321 **WYNTER WILDES 21 (C&D)** C Fellowes 3-8-11 ... H Turner
10 (8) 7-6L811 **SARSONS RISK 19 (D2)** I Williams 3-8-10 ... David Egan
11 (10) 3310 **MOSTLY SUNNY 75 (D)** H Main 3-8-9 ... A Mullen
12 (12) 522110 **SOPHIESTICATE 12 (D)** J Goldie 3-8-2 ... JP Sullivan

Probable SP: 5 Wynter Wildes, 11-2 Sarsons Risk, 6 Postmark, 13-2 True Courage, Scampi. **FAVOURITES & 2021:** No corresponding meeting.

6.15 —WILLIAM HILL PLAY RESPONSIBLY RACING LEAGUE RACE THIRTY-SEVEN (HANDICAP) (3) £50,000 (£25,770) 1m 2f 42yds (14) ITV4

1 (6) 434211 **TREGONY 21 (C&D2D5)** C Cox 4-9-12 ... S Osborne (3)
2 (9) 022932 **GEREMIA 21** J Goldie 4-9-12 ... JP Sullivan
3 (7) 411364 **JEAN BAPTISTE 21 (P) (D2)** R Fell 5-9-12 ... O McSweeney (5)
4 (1) 143302 **MATCHLESS 17 (D2)** I Furtado 4-9-11 ... L Edmunds
5 (5) 221114 **ANDALEEP 14 (T) (D6BF)** D & C Kubler 6-9-9 ... D Muscutt
6 (4) 131021 **WHITE WILLOW 17 (D)** R Fahey 4-9-8 ... P Cosgrave
7 (3) 113-422 **VANITY AFFAIR 43 (H) (C&DD)** C Fellowes 5-9-6 ... H Turner
8 (8) 228L13 **CITY RUNNER 27 (B)** B Meehan 3-9-6 ... G M Ryan
9 (12) 729311 **EEETEE (5lbex) 11 (D2)** D O'Meara 4-9-6 ... Jason Watson
10 (10) 152153 **JEWEL MAKER 17 (C2D)** T Easterby 7-9-5 ... C Hardie
11 (14) 345131 **INNSE GALL 16 (D2)** I Jardine 4-9-4 ... A Mullen
12 (2) 210777 **SCHMILSSON 25 (D)** A Balding 3-9-2 ... N Currie
13 (11) 1-8L342 **ANGELS LANDING 14** I Williams 4-8-11 ... David Egan
14 (13) 1-513L1 **FEARLESS BAY 13 (P) (C&DD)** E Dunlop 3-8-9 ... R Dawson

Probable SP: 11-2 Eeetee, 6 Tregony, 7 Geremia, Fearless Bay, 15-2 White Willow, 10 Vanity Affair, Innse Gall, 12 Andaleep, Matchless.

6.45 —WILLIAM HILL BUILD YOUR ODDS RACING LEAGUE RACE THIRTY-EIGHT (HANDICAP) (3) £50,000 (£27,000) 1m 5yds (14) ITV4

1 (10) 424321 **MENAI BRIDGE 21 (C&DD3)** C Hills 4-9-12 ... D Muscutt
2 (7) 458500 **YOUNG FIRE 21 (V) (D)** D O'Meara 7-9-11 ... Jason Watson
3 (9) 413322 **GALIAC 21 (C)** W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-8 ... C Shepherd
4 (2) 006-630 **RAISING SAND 21 (P) (D3)** J Osborne 10-9-7 ... S Osborne (3)
5 (8) 588632 **DON'T TELL CLAIRE 12 (C&DD2)** D & C Kubler 5-9-7 ... S M Levey
6 (12) 3323-34 **DOUBLE DEALING 21** R Fahey 4-9-5 ... B Robinson
7 (14) 421149 **YAASER 12 (D)** J Goldie 4-9-4 ... JP Sullivan
8 (13) 662103 **GLOBAL SPIRIT 12 (D3)** R Fell 7-9-3 ... O McSweeney (5)
9 (5) 431336 **SIP AND SMILE 79 (C2)** G Boughey 3-8-13 ... H Turner
10 (6) 1-260 **GOLDEN MAYFLOWER 90 (T)** Miss A Murphy 3-8-13 ... R Dawson
11 (11) 113137 **LIGHT UP OUR STARS 35 (H) (D3)** S Dixon 6-8-11 ... P Cosgrave
12 (1) 11-333L **NEAT AND DANDY 162 (P)** M Loughnane 3-8-11 ... G M Ryan
13 (3) 4544L3 **BRINGITONBORIS 21 (P) (C&D4D)** K Dalgleish 5-8-11 ... A Mullen
14 (4) 0441L6 **STRONGBOWE 45 (P) (D)** T Easterby 6-8-10 ... C Hardie

Probable SP: 4 Menai Bridge, 5 Galiac, 11-2 Don't Tell Claire, 6 Sip And Smile, 8 Double Dealing, Bringitonboris, 12 Global Spirit, 14 Young Fire.

NEWCASTLE SSR ITV4 ALL SEVEN RACES

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
5.45 Postmark	5.45 Sarsons Risk
6.15 Tregony	6.15 Vanity Affair
6.45 Bringitonboris	6.45 Neat And Dandy
7.15 Out From Under	7.15 Out From Under (nb)
7.45 Never Just A Dream	7.45 Kitbag
8.15 Badri	8.15 Watchya
8.45 Many A Star	8.45 Faustus

NORTHERNER – 8.15 Strike Red (nb).

7.15 —WILLIAM HILL BEST ODDS GUARANTEED RACING LEAGUE RACE THIRTY-NINE (HANDICAP) (3) £50,000 (£25,770) 7f 14yds (14) ITV4

1 (11) 25131-2 **STREET KID 35 (P) (D2)** K P De Foy 4-9-12 ... D Muscutt
2 (8) 1460L0 **EAGLEWAY 54 (P) (D3)** I Furtado 6-9-10 ... L Edmunds
3 (7) 23-1075 **FFION 35 (D3BF)** D Loughnane 5-9-9 ... G M Ryan
4 (13) 2-13221 **OUT FROM UNDER 30 (D2)** H & R Charlton 3-9-8 ... L Dettori
5 (10) 31U557 **SWISS ACE 62 (C&D)** R Carr 4-9-8 ... P Mulrennan
6 (1) 813367 **MELODY OF LIFE 30 (P) (D)** A Balding 4-9-8 ... N Currie
7 (3) 316141 **FRESH HOPE 21 (C&DD)** C Fellowes 3-9-6 ... H Turner
8 (5) 491240 **BILLY MILL 12 (D)** B Millman 4-9-3 ... S Osborne (3)
9 (6) 2U-L646 **FLASH THE DASH 89 (H) (C&D)** J Camacho 3-8-13 ... D Costello
10 (9) 43-5214 **CONSENSUS DE VEGA 35 (DBF)** R Varian 3-8-13 ... R Dawson
11 (12) 402461 **BUCKSHAW VILLAGE 35 (D)** R Fahey 3-8-11 ... H Shaw
12 (2) 4241L **AMANIRENAS 55 (D)** M C Grassick (IRE) 3-8-3 ... T Heard (3)
13 (4) 841434 **CLASSY AL 19 (H)** J Goldie 4-8-2 ... JP Sullivan
14 (14) 053121 **DESERT LAND 13 (C&D2)** K Dalgleish 6-8-2 ... A Mullen

Probable SP: 4 Fresh Hope, 9-2 Out From Under, 7 Desert Land, Street Kid, 8 Consensus De Vega, 10 Ffion, Buckshaw Village, 12 Swiss Ace, 16 Amanirenas, Melody Of Life, Classy Al, 20 Billy Mill.

7.45 —WILLIAM HILL EXTRA PLACE RACES RACING LEAGUE RACE FORTY (NURSERY) (4) (2-Y-0) £25,400 (£13,091) 6f (14) ITV4

1 (12) 81L **NEVER JUST A DREAM 27 (D)** I Mohammed 9-9 ... C Noble
2 (6) 635 **YACOWLEF 27** P & O Cole 9-8 ... S M Levey
3 (3) 571 **MAGICAL MERLIN 19 (D)** H & R Charlton 9-7 ... A Kirby
4 (7) 443302 **MICHAELA'S BOY 14** M Appleby 9-4 ... L Edmunds
5 (5) 2921 **COTAI PEARL (6lbex) 8 (D)** B Smart 9-4 ... P Mulrennan
6 (9) 162610 **GLORIOUS ANGEL 28 (D2)** H Palmer 9-3 ... JP Sullivan
7 (4) 1L6 **ROCK OF ENGLAND 28 (P) (D)** E Bethell 9-2 ... C Hardie
8 (1) 613 **KITBAG 14 (D)** M Channon 9-2 ... D Muscutt
9 (14) 3564 **NOVAPORTIAN 21 (P)** H Palmer 9-0 ... A Mullen
10 (2) 662414 **EXPEDITIOUS 9 (DBF)** Alice Haynes 8-10 ... R Dawson
11 (11) 882113 **GEMCUTTER 14 (P)** B Ellison 8-10 ... B Robinson
12 (8) 34LL12 **IGNAC LAMAR 12 (D)** B Millman 8-9 ... David Egan
13 (13) 533 **LADY MILLER 13 (T)** B Meehan 8-5 ... T Heard (3)
14 (10) 207L87 **CUBAN ROCK 35 (P)** J Goldie 8-2 ... NON RUNNER

Probable SP: 11-2 Magical Merlin, 6 Cotai Pearl, Yacowlef, 13-2 Never Just A Dream, 8 Ignac Lamar, Michaela's Boy, 10 Gemcutter, 12 Kitbag.

8.15 —WILLIAM HILL LENGTHEN YOUR ODDS RACING LEAGUE RACE FORTY-ONE (HANDICAP) (3) £50,000 added (£25,770) 6f (14) ITV4

1 (5) 9-60044 **STRIKE RED 82 (T) (C&D2D2BF)** R Fahey 4-9-12 ... B Robinson
2 (14) 582121 **BADRI 21 (C&DD2)** R Carr 5-9-12 ... P Mulrennan
3 (1) 29L7L1 **TOMMY DE VITO 19 (C&DD3)** C Hills 5-9-11 ... N Currie
4 (8) L-10101 **WATCHYA 65 (D3)** C Cox 3-9-10 ... S Osborne (3)
5 (12) 11-L534 **HONKY TONK MAN 21 (C)** H & R Charlton 3-9-8 ... A Kirby
6 (10) 13LL43 **SEVEN BROTHERS 14 (D3)** S Dixon 4-9-6 ... P Cosgrave
7 (13) 110335 **STERLING KNIGHT 40 (D2)** E Dunlop 3-9-6 ... H Turner
8 (9) 23161 **LIR SPECIALE 14 (D2)** R Varian 3-9-5 ... R Dawson
9 (2) 316145 **MISTER BLUEBIRD 39 (P) (DBF2)** H Main 4-9-5 ... A Mullen
10 (7) 009424 **BOOGIE TIME 16 (D4)** M Loughnane 4-9-0 ... G M Ryan
11 (3) 004010 **MUSCIKA 55 (V) (D10)** D O'Meara 8-9-0 ... Jason Watson
12 (11) 535121 **TEMPLE BRUER 8 (PT) (D4)** M Murphy & M Keady 4-8-13 ... D Muscutt
13 (6) 211734 **WATER OF LEITH 12 (D4)** J Goldie 4-8-12 ... JP Sullivan
14 (4) 65-241L **PANAMA CITY 38** T Easterby 3-8-9 ... C Hardie

Probable SP: 5 Lir Speciale, 11-2 Badri, 13-2 Strike Red, 7 Honky Tonk Man, 15-2 Tommy de Vito, 10 Watchya, Temple Bruer, 12 Sterling Knight, Water Of Leith, 14 Seven Brothers, 16 Mister Bluebird, 20 Boogie Time, Muscika.

8.45 —WILLIAM HILL PICK YOUR PLACES RACING LEAGUE RACE FORTY-TWO (HANDICAP) (3) £50,000 (£25,770) 5f (14) ITV4

1 (11) 816575 **NAVELLO 45 (P) (D5)** G Boughey 3-9-12 ... H Turner
2 (13) 198122 **MANY A STAR 12 (BF2)** P & O Cole 5-9-11 ... D Muscutt
3 (1) 105211- **THE BELL CONDUCTOR 260 (D4)** P Midgley 5-9-11 ... P Mulrennan
4 (9) 51-3L18 **NEPTUNIAN 26 (C)** M Meade 3-9-8 ... A Kirby
5 (10) 30-1L53 **FAUSTUS 21 (C&DD2)** R Cowell 4-9-7 ... R Dawson
6 (8) 271605 **SWAYZE 12 (D2)** W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-7 ... C Shepherd
7 (5) 000444 **STONE OF DESTINY 8 (CD2)** A Balding 7-9-6 ... N Currie
8 (12) L03351 **SHOW ME SHOW ME 21 (C&DD3)** R Fahey 5-9-5 ... H Shaw
9 (14) 6406-36 **MUKER 12 (C&DD)** P Midgley 4-9-4 ... C Hardie
10 (6) 522L87 **BE PROUD 21 (C&D5D2)** J Goldie 6-9-3 ... JP Sullivan
11 (3) 401632 **KAPE MOSS 42 (CD)** D Loughnane 3-9-2 ... G M Ryan
12 (2) 393018 **GINGER JAM 13 (P) (CD8)** N Tinkler 7-9-0 ... A Mullen
13 (4) 2L9046 **MARNIE JAMES 26 (D5)** S Dixon 7-8-11 ... P Cosgrave
14 (7) 703642 **ELANORA 7 (B) (DBF2)** M C Grassick (IRE) 4-8-5 ... T Heard (3)

Probable SP: 9-2 Many A Star, 11-2 Show Me Show Me, 13-2 Faustus, 15-2 The Bell Conductor, Elanora, 10 Be Proud, 12 Kape Moss, Stone Of Destiny, Muker, 14 Swayze, Navello, Neptunian.

TRACK FACTS: JACKPOT & PRINCIPAL MEETING. L-H Tapeta course. **GOING:** Standard. **TALLS:** Straight centre; 1m2f & 1m4f outside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** No data available. **Top jockey:** Paul Mulrennan. **Top trainer:** R Fahey. **Headgear first time:** 7.45 Rock Of England. **Longest travellers:** Amanirenas (7.15) & Elanora (8.45) Ireland; Postmark (5.45) 343 miles. **Drop in Class:** 7.45 Never Just A Dream is down 5 grades on last run (Group 2 to Class 4); Yacowlef (2); Glorious Angel (2); Rock Of England (2); Expeditious (2). **First run since wind surgery:** 6.45 Golden Mayflower.

RACING RESULTS

BEVERLEY

1.42 — SHE'S GOT BOTTLE (T Fisher) **28-1** 1; **Martin's Brig 5-2F** 2; **Barrister Blaster 40-1** 3. **12 ran.** (R Fell). 3l, hd. **Tote:** 29.00; 4.40, 1.30, 8.90. Ex: 156.00. Tf: 2256.20. CSF: 94.09.

2.17 — HAVANA BY THE SEA (P Hanagan) **5-4F** 1; **Oahu 13-2** 2; **Catwalk Model 12-1** 3. **14 ran.** (Craig Lidster). 1l, 1l. **Tote:** 2.25; 1.10, 2.70, 3.70. Ex: 12.90. Tf: 54.80. CSF: 8.99.

2.52 — VETIVER (P J McDonald) **15-8F** 1; **Anjo Bonita 9-4(2ndFav)** 2; **Powdering 9-1** 3. **8 ran.** (A Balding). 1¼, 2½. **Tote:** 2.88; 1.10, 1.30, 2.50. Ex: 7.30. Tf: 38.80. CSF: 6.43. NR: Elusive Truth.

3.27 — IMPEACHMENT (J Hart) **5-2F** 1; **Tephi 11-2** 2; **Storm Fox 9-2** 3. **9 ran.** (J Ferguson). hd, 6l. **Tote:** 3.50; 1.20, 1.60, 2.00. Ex: 12.50. Tf: 52.60. CSF: 16.61. NR: Azucena.

4.02 — ELEGANT ERIN (G Lee) **9-2(2ndFav)** 1; **Ey Up It's Maggie 3-1F** 2; **May Blossom 5-1** 3. **12 ran.** (P Midgley). ½, ½. **Tote:** 5.50; 2.30, 1.50, 1.90. Ex: 20.30. Tc: 72.03. Tf: 75.50. CSF: 16.97.

4.35 — FRANKENDAEL (D Allan) **15-2** 1; **Reach 7-1** 2; **Broadspear 8-11F** 3. **7 ran.** (T Easterby). 1¾, 1¾. **Tote:** 8.50; 2.20, 2.70. Ex: 36.50. Tf: 77.00. CSF: 56.33.

5.05 — TELE RED (C Lee) **7-2F** 1; **Dandy's Angel 16-1** 2; **Jackamundo 8-1** 3. **13 ran.** (K R Burke). ¾, 1l. **Tote:** 4.90; 1.70, 4.70, 3.00. Ex: 81.20. Tc: 432.38. Tf: 666.60. CSF: 66.05. NR: Hector's Here.

Placepot £42.60.
Q'pot £11.60.

KELSO

3.40 — MORTLACH (Jack Hogan) **4-9F** 1; **Dame De Fortune 10-3(2ndFav)** 2; **Longstone Cowboy 15-2** 3. **6 ran.** (F O'Brien). 5l, 5½. **Tote:** 1.45; 1.10, 1.60. Ex: 2.30. Tf: 4.60. CSF: 2.44.

4.15 — THE NAVIGATOR (D McMenamin) **4-1** 1; **Solo Saxophone 3-1JtFav** 2; **Caius Marcius 4-1** 3. **5 ran.** (D Sayer). 2l, 4l. **Tote:** 5.00; 1.80, 2.10. Ex: 19.60. Tf: 67.50. CSF: 16.13. NRs: Coolbane Boy, Curious Times, Dallas Des Pictons.

4.45 — RAECIUS FELIX (B Hughes) **evensF** 1; **Sword Of Fate 8-1** 2; **Cardboard Gangster 9-4(2ndFav)** 3. **5 ran.** (R Menzies). 1¼, 6l. **Tote:** 2.00; 1.10, 3.40. Ex: 8.10. Tf: 15.50. CSF: 9.16. NR: Ladronne.

5.15 — GENEVER DRAGON (B Hughes) **3-1F** 1; **Animore 7-1** 2; **Calliope 7-2(2ndFav)** 3. **9 ran.** (D McCain). nk, 3½. **Tote:** 4.00; 1.40, 2.60, 1.90. Ex: 31.00. Tc: 77.25. Tf: 150.60. CSF: 25.07. NR: Old Jewry.

5.45 — GOLD DES BOIS (C O'Farrell) **5-2(2ndFav)** 1; **Tico Times 13-8F** 2; **If Not For Dylan 3-1** 3. **4 ran.** (I Jardine). 2l, nk. **Tote:** 3.50; Ex: 6.20. Tf: 11.10. CSF: 7.08. NR: Slanelough.

6.15 — GETAMAN (K Woods) **10-11F** 1; **Begoodtoyourself 7-2** 2; **Deerfoot 16-1** 3. **4 ran.** (D J Jeffreys). 5l, 1¾. **Tote:** 1.91; Ex: 3.10. Tf: 11.10. CSF: 4.52. NRs: Living's Boy An Co, Spark Of Madness.

6.45 — BRIDGET BREEZE (Sean Quinlan) **11-4** 1; **Moonshine Molly 15-8F** 2; **Blue Clover 5-2(2ndFav)** 3. **6 ran.** (G Boanas). 3¾, 8l. **Tote:** 3.75; 2.10, 1.30. Ex: 7.50. Tf: 32.80. CSF: 7.67. NR: Lady Stanwix.

Placepot £27.90.
Q'pot £12.10.

SANDOWN

1.50 — PHOENIX STAR (O Stammers) **4-1(2ndFav)** 1; **Pop Dancer 16-1** 2; **Harb 11-1** 3. **8 ran.** (Jessica Macey). 1l, 1½. **Tote:** 5.00; 1.80, 2.10, 3.40. Ex: 32.10. Tc: 645.33. Tf: 396.20. CSF: 60.56. NR: Wiley Post.

2.25 — LOCAL DYNASTY (W Buick) **11-10F** 1; **Opera Ghost 125-1** 2; **Sir Laurence Graff 9-4(2ndFav)** 3. **7 ran.** (C Appleby). 3½, 1½. **Tote:** 2.10; 1.30, 8.70. Ex: 82.50. Tf: 385.30. CSF: 172.19.

3.00 — STRIKING STAR (W Buick) **15-8(2ndFav)** 1; **Nothing To Sea 10-1** 2; **Radetsky Marsch 13-2** 3. **10 ran.** (C Appleby). 1¼, ½. **Tote:** 2.88; 1.20, 2.70, 2.10. Ex: 20.20. Tf: 106.70. CSF: 21.05. NRs: Lahab, Sea Squared.

3.35 — BAYSIDE BOY (W Buick) **4-6F** 1; **Sweet Believer 17-2** 2; **Escobar 11-4(2ndFav)** 3. **5 ran.** (R Varian). 1½, 2¼. **Tote:** 1.67; 1.10, 3.00. Ex: 6.90. Tf: 11.60. CSF: 7.23. NRs: Magical Morning, Sinjaari.

4.10 — I'LL BE THERE (W Buick) **18-5(2ndFav)** 1; **Tango Tonight 5-1** 2; **New Heights 4-1** 3. **6 ran.** (G Boughey). 2l, 2¾. **Tote:** 4.60; 1.80, 2.80. Ex: 25.30. Tc: 69.62. Tf: 93.50. CSF: 20.74. NRs: Belhaven, Rose Barton.

4.40 — NONSUCH LAD (A Keeley) **6-1** 1; **Lady Shotgun 9-4F** 2; **Blueberry Hill 7-1** 3. **9 ran.** (J Boyle). ns, 1¼. **Tote:** 7.50; 2.20, 1.30, 2.30. Ex: 27.10. Tc: 101.55. Tf: 151.70. CSF: 21.21. NR: Savrola.

5.10 — MISS DOWN UNDER (R Kingscote) **18-1** 1; **Golden Chain 9-2** 2; **Midgetonamission 18-1** 3. **12 ran.** (A Perrett). ¾, 1¼. **Tote:** 19.00; 4.90, 1.90, 3.10. Ex: 115.60. Tc: 1521.69. Tf: 2008.30. CSF: 99.58. NRs: Deceit, Naasma.

Jackpot £5,305.40.
Placepot £191.40.
Q'pot £17.80.

YARMOUTH

2.10 — PRISCILLA'S WISH (H Davies) **9-4F** 1; **Hot Chesnut 17-2** 2; **Breach 15-2** 3. **12 ran.** (P McBride). ½, 2½. **Tote:** 3.25; 1.20, 3.10, 3.10. Ex: 29.80. Tc: 129.08. Tf: 232.40. CSF: 22.99. NR: Company Minx.

2.45 — LORD OF BISCAY (A Atzeni) **6-1** 1; **Obelix 10-11F** 2; **Sea Eagle 10-3(2ndFav)** 3. **11 ran.** (R Varian). 1½, 2½. **Tote:** 7.10; 2.30, 1.10, 1.30. Ex: 15.30. Tf: 46.70. CSF: 11.92.

3.20 — SHAARA (J Crowley) **7-2(Jt2ndFav)** 1; **Mise En Scene 8-1** 2; **Ville De Grace 9-4F** 3. **13 ran.** (J & T Gosden). ns, ¾. **Tote:** 4.50; 1.60, 1.70, 1.40. Ex: 30.90. Tf: 99.90. CSF: 29.93. NR: Timeless Soul.

3.55 — GOOD BIRTHDAY (A Atzeni) **10-1** 1; **Bolthole 8-1** 2; **Rhythm N Rock 12-1** 3. **10 ran.** (A Balding). 2¼, nk. **Tote:** 11.00; 2.70, 2.40, 4.10. Ex: 84.20. Tc: 981.87. Tf: 1262.30. CSF: 89.02.

4.30 — X J RASCAL (R L Moore) **2-5F** 1; **Star Player 2-1(2ndFav)** 2; **2 ran.** (G Boughey). shd. **Tote:** 1.40; NR: Twilight Guest.

5.00 — DELIRIOUS DREAM (B Sayette) **4-1** 1; **Taritino 17-2** 2; **Not For Profit 11-1** 3. **5 ran.** (K P De Foy). 1l, nk. **Tote:** 5.10; 1.60, 3.40. Ex: 26.60. Tf: 123.80. CSF: 32.50.

5.37 — TIME STEP (H Davies) **85-40F** 1; **Majeski Man 10-3(2ndFav)** 2; **Society Lion 6-1** 3. **7 ran.** (Sir M Todd). nk, ¾. **Tote:** 3.13; 1.70, 2.00. Ex: 9.80. Tf: 31.80. CSF: 8.91.

Placepot £81.40.
Q'pot £34.30.

HOTSPOTS

WORK WHISPER
GIMME SOME SUGAR
(Chelmsford City, 6.30)

WEIGHTING GAME
FLYING PURSUIT
(Ayr, 5.20)
Down 23lb from last winning mark.

BURNT FINGERS
RUN THIS WAY
(Pontefract, 4.02)

CAPTAIN HEATH TRIO
NURSECLAIRE (nap)
(Yarmouth, 5.35)
FRESH HOPE (nb)
(Newcastle, 7.15)
POSTMARK
(Newcastle, 5.45)

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COUNTY ROUND-UP

SHANE SNATER'S aggressive, unbeaten 65 secured **ESSEX** a thrilling one-wicket win over **YORKSHIRE** inside three days at Headingley.

The visitors took eight wickets in the first half of the day to bowl Yorkshire out for 252 in their second innings, but they later slipped to 64 for six and 93 for seven in pursuit of 162 to win.

Then Snater took over with fellow seamer Ben Allison and, after two more late wickets fell to give Yorkshire hope, Snater heaved Ben Coad through midwicket to secure Essex's sixth win of the campaign.

Tom Curran struck a swashbuckling maiden first-class century as title-chasing **SURREY** set up a victory charge against **NORTHANTS**. The home side lead by 127 with five wickets left going into the last day at Wantage Road.

CRICKET SCOREBOARDS

LV COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

(Day 3 of 4, today 10.30am)

Division I

Yorkshire v Essex

HEADINGLEY: Essex (20pts) beat Yorkshire (3) by one wkt.

YORKSHIRE — First Innings 134

Second Innings

(Overnight: 87-2)

F Bean lbw b Porter ... **53**
T Kohler-Cadmore c A Cook ... b S Cook **12**
W Fraine b Critchley ... **27**
***†J Tattersall** c A Cook b Allison ... **10**
M Revis b Porter ... **14**
J Thompson c Lawrence b Critchley **2**
B Coad b Critchley ... **69**
S Patterson c Rossington b Porter **9**
J Shutt not out ... **0**
Extras (b6, lb7, nb6) ... **19**

Total (77.4 overs) ... **252**
Fall: 25, 87, 103, 123, 150, 152, 158, 238, 244.
Bowling: Porter 19.4-4-64-4, S Cook 15-4-45-2, Snater 10-3-38-0, Allison 15-7-32-1, Critchley 17-2-59-3, Lawrence 1-0-1-0.

ESSEX — First Innings 225

Second Innings

N Browne c Fraine b Thompson ... **3**
A Cook c Kohler-Cadmore ... b Patterson **35**
***T Westley** c Revis b Patterson ... **9**
D Lawrence b Patterson ... **13**
M Critchley c & b Patterson ... **0**
F Khushi lbw b Coad ... **0**
†A Rossington c Fraine b Hill ... **7**
S Snater not out ... **65**
B Allison c Tattersall b Coad ... **12**
S Cook c Lyth b Patterson ... **3**
J Porter not out ... **0**
Extras (lb13, nb2) ... **15**

Total (9 wkts 48.1 overs) ... **162**
Fall: 3, 35, 51, 51, 60, 64, 93, 156, 161.
Bowling: Coad 17.1-4-40-2, Thompson 9-1-39-1, Patterson 16-4-46-5, Hill 6-0-24-1.

Northamptonshire v Surrey

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire (6pts), with five 2nd-innings wkts in hand, are leading Surrey (8) by 127 runs.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE — First Innings 339

Second Innings

E Gay lbw b Clark ... **26**
***W Young** c Curran b Worrall ... **1**
L Procter lbw b Atkinson ... **55**
J Cobb c Geddes b Steel ... **11**
R Keogh c Clark b Steel ... **23**
†R Vasconcelos not out ... **51**
Saif Zaib not out ... **19**
Extras (b4, lb12, w1, nb6) ... **23**

Total (5 wkts 65 overs) ... **209**
Fall: 15, 47, 72, 114, 161.
Bowling: Roach 11-4-23-0, Worrall 11-1-33-1, Atkinson 8-1-29-1, J Clark 11-1-25-1, Curran 11-4-25-0, Steel 13-0-58-2.

SURREY — First Innings

(Overnight: 224-5)

H Amla lbw b Keogh ... **133**
J Clark c Gay b Williams ... **30**
T Curran c Procter b Williams ... **115**
G Atkinson b Keogh ... **0**
K Roach not out ... **9**
D Worrall b Keogh ... **12**
Extras (b5, lb12, nb14) ... **31**

Total (104.3 overs) ... **421**
Fall: 20, 30, 46, 80, 195, 244, 388, 388, 400.
Bowling: Sanderson 22-1-70-1, White 21-3-55-2, Williams 21-1-114-2, L Procter 17-5-52-1, Sales 6-0-43-0, Keogh 13.3-2-51-4, S Zaib 4-0-19-0.

Warwickshire v Somerset

EDGBASTON: Somerset (4pts), with six 2nd-innings wkts in hand, are leading Warwickshire (3) by 300 runs.

SOMERSET — First Innings 219

Second Innings

(Overnight: 13-2)

T Lammonby c Yates ... b Hannon-Dalby **40**
***T Abell** b Briggs ... **87**
G Bartlett not out ... **91**
L Goldsworthy not out ... **44**
Extras (b4, lb5, w6) ... **15**

Total (4 wkts 109 overs) ... **277**
Fall: 0, 7, 86, 158.
Bowling: Hannon-Dalby 22-10-45-1, Mohammed Siraj 16-8-32-1, J Yadav 33-6-75-1, Briggs 20-5-63-1, Brookes 14-1-44-0, Rhodes 4-2-9-0.

WARWICKSHIRE — First Innings 196

Division II

Leicestershire v Durham

GRACE ROAD: Durham (5pts), with eight 2nd-innings wkts in hand, require 54 runs to beat Leics (4).

LEICS — First Innings 202

Second Innings

M Azad c Maddinson b Potts ... **7**
S Budinger b Potts ... **0**
R Patel c Borthwick b Raine ... **13**
L Kimber lbw b Gibson ... **75**
C Ackermann b Potts ... **12**
†H Swindells c Mackintosh b Potts **16**
T Scriven c Bedingham b Potts ... **3**
E Barnes c Mackintosh b Potts ... **1**
***C Parkinson** c Bedingham b Potts **19**
C Wright b Gibson ... **0**
M Finan not out ... **8**
Extras (b30, lb10, w4) ... **44**

Total (63.5 overs) ... **198**
Bowling: Raine 19-7-37-1, Potts 19.5-5-49-7, Coughlin 10-4-30-0, Gibson 10-5-25-2, Drissell 5-1-17-0.

DURHAM — First Innings

(Overnight: 239-5)

N Maddinson c Ackermann ... b Finan ... **56**
B Raine c Swindells b Scriven ... **11**
†T Mackintosh lbw b Finan ... **11**
G Drissell not out ... **13**
M Potts c Ackermann b Barnes ... **2**
O Gibson b Wright ... **6**
Extras (b4, lb8, w3, nb8) ... **23**

Total (91 overs) ... **296**
Bowling: Wright 24-8-59-3, Finan 17-3-59-2, Barnes 13-2-51-1, Scriven 17-2-54-1, Parkinson 18-2-56-3, Ackermann 1-0-4-0, Kimber 1-0-1-0.

Second Innings

M Jones not out ... **28**
S Dickson b Finan ... **2**
***S Borthwick** lbw b Finan ... **2**
N Maddinson not out ... **17**
Extras (b2) ... **2**

Total (2 wkts 15 overs) ... **51**
Bowling: Wright 6-0-25-0, Finan 5-1-14-2, Scriven 2-0-5-0, Parkinson 2-0-5-0.

Middlesex v Glamorgan

LORD'S: Glamorgan (4pts), with two 2nd-innings wkts in hand, are leading Middlesex (7) by 15 runs.

GLAMORGAN — First Innings 214

Second Innings

***D Lloyd** c Robson b Bamber ... **70**
E Byrom c Bamber b R-Jones ... **47**
S Gill c Hollman b Murtagh ... **11**
S Northeast c Simpson b R-Jones **0**
K Carlson c Eskinazi b Murtagh ... **9**
W Root c Robson b Bamber ... **0**
†C Cooke lbw b Higgins ... **14**
J Harris c Simpson b R-Jones ... **14**
T van der Gugten not out ... **5**
A Patel not out ... **7**
Extras (lb3, w1, nb10) ... **14**

Total (8 wkts 68 overs) ... **191**
Bowling: Murtagh 16-8-37-2, Roland-Jones 18-4-46-3, Higgins 16-2-39-1, Bamber 12-4-36-2, Hollman 6-1-30-0.

MIDDLESEX — First Innings

(Overnight: 286-5)

†J Simpson b Hogan ... **76**
R Higgins b Harris ... **40**
L Hollman c Gill b Harris ... **58**
T Roland-Jones c Gill b Patel ... **19**
E Bamber c Lloyd b Patel ... **5**
T Murtagh not out ... **2**
Extras (lb13, nb8) ... **21**

Total (112.1 overs) ... **390**
Fall: 36, 90, 92, 92, 226, 295, 295, 342, 378.
Bowling: Hogan 26-6-94-2, Harris 29.1-4-90-5, Van der Gugten 24-5-63-0, Patel 20-5-68-3, Lloyd 12-1-52-0, Carlson 1-0-10-0.

Sussex v Worcestershire

HOVE: Sussex (2pts), with nine 2nd-innings wkts in hand, are trailing Worcs (8) by 179 runs.

SUSSEX — First Innings 220

Second Innings

A Orr not out ... **24**
***T Haines** b Leach ... **13**
B Currie not out ... **0**
Extras (nb2) ... **2**

Total (1 wkt 10 overs) ... **39**
Bowling: Leach 5-1-25-1, Pennington 3-2-6-0, Tongue 2-0-8-0.

WORCS — First Innings

(Overnight: 289-2)

J Libby b Coles ... **215**
J Haynes b Currie ... **31**
***B D'Oliveira** c Orr b Ashraf ... **43**
E Barnard not out ... **2**
Extras (b8, lb16, w3, nb6) ... **33**

Total (5 wkts dec 100 overs) ... **438**
Bowling: Ashraf 18-0-120-1, Hudson-Prentice 13-2-49-0, Currie 18-3-78-1, Crocombe 15-1-77-0, Carson 20-4-40-2, Haines 8-3-11-0, Coles 8-0-39-1.

Players will feel safe in Pakistan, says Jordan

By RICHARD GIBSON
in Karachi

CHRIS JORDAN believes England's historic tour of Pakistan is an essential ingredient in restoring normality to the cricket-mad country.

A seven-match Twenty20 series this month precedes a return for three Tests in December.

Ahead of Jos Buttler's squad landing in Karachi today, Jordan said: 'Pakistan is a part of the world cricket fraternity and they should be able to see their favourite players. The guys will have a great time. The wickets should be good and it should make for good cricket.'

Jordan, 33, is sidelined with a fractured middle finger in his right hand, meaning he will miss England's first official trip there for 17 years, following Australia's first visit since 1998 in the spring.

Security fears have been a key factor in such lengthy stay-away periods but Jordan broke rank in 2017 when he and Dawid Malan travelled to Lahore in 2017 to play for Peshawar Zalmi in the Pakistan Super League final.

That was only the second time international players had ventured to the city since the ambushing of the Sri Lanka team by terrorists as the tourists' bus made its way to the Gaddafi Stadium in 2009. Jordan played in the following two PSL campaigns too.

'I really enjoyed my time in Pakistan,' he told *Sportsmail*. 'The people are amazing. We were well looked after and made to feel safe. You're always pleasantly surprised by the reception you receive there. You can see how much cricket means to the country.'

Despite his injury, Jordan is in England's 15-man World Cup squad to travel to Australia next month. 'I've been able to do all the physical training,' he said. 'After that it's just a matter of building up my bowling and trying to be ready.'

Pope: I'd do anything to play in 100 Tests

by LAWRENCE BOOTH

OLLIE POPE says he now feels like England's No3 after a summer in which coach Brendon McCullum helped him remove the fear of losing his wicket. And he has set his sights on playing 100 Tests.

Pope, who at the age of 24 has won 30 caps already, had never previously batted at No3 at first-class level.

But he responded to a challenge many feared would prove beyond him with 456 runs at 38 this summer, including 145 against New Zealand at Trent Bridge and a pair of skilful half-centuries in tough conditions against South Africa.

He also abandoned the off-stump guard that had left his game in disarray during the Ashes, when he averaged 11, and meant he spent the tour of the West Indies in March carrying drinks.

'I've enjoyed that position this summer,' he said. 'It's been new, but hopefully I'll be backed to do it in the future as well.'

Pope used his downtime in the Caribbean to work on his game with England batting coach Marcus Trescothick.

He admitted: 'I needed to change my game slightly and tighten up a few little things, which would then allow me to become a top-order batter, even though that wasn't necessarily on the radar at the time.'

That included reverting to the middle-stump guard he had used while building up a first-class average of more than 50, and shining on England's tour of South Africa in 2019-20. But another key intervention came during a chat with McCullum.

'He's been very much, "Stop fearing getting out in Test cricket",' said Pope. 'Test cricket is so important to me, I'd do anything to have a great career and play 100 Tests. I was almost putting myself under too much pressure, and that fear of getting out was probably getting a bit too much. I tried to get rid of that. Rather than think, "If I cut this, I might nick it", I think, "If I cut it and I nick it then it might go over the slips for four". That is the mindset change I've tried to go by.'

And Pope insisted that Bazball is not simply a question of having a slog. 'There's a lot more to it than that, and that's going to be our next challenge. Can we do the same sort of stuff in Pakistan and figure out what's the best positive brand to play in those conditions?

'It's always going to be positive, but it will probably look slightly different depending on the game and the conditions.'

England No3 has new lease of life now he's 'not afraid of getting out'

Ollie good: Pope has found form under McCullum GETTY IMAGES

Hunt is on for new Test bowling coach

ENGLAND are looking to bring in a locum bowling coach for their Test series in Pakistan with Jon Lewis set to return to the ECB's pathways system. It is likely to be someone from the county game, which means Yorkshire coach Ottis Gibson and Graeme Welch, the title-chasing Hampshire bowling coach, might return temporarily to a position they have filled in the past.

Alternatively, the hierarchy might consider an approach to Azhar Mahmood, who has specialist knowledge of the conditions England will face in December, having been Pakistan bowling coach until 2019. Meanwhile, England head coach Brendon McCullum has confirmed he expects James Anderson, 40, and Stuart Broad, 36, to be selected for the Ashes squad next year. 'Yeah, they'll be here,' said McCullum of England's all-time leading Test wicket-takers. 'Those guys are phenomenal cricketers. They are quite incredible humans.'

He added: 'The time, the effort and the confidence they're giving the other guys is quite remarkable.'

RICHARD GIBSON

Worcester's next match faces axe

RUGBY UNION

BY NIK SIMON

WORCESTER are on the brink of forfeiting Sunday's game against Exeter after the cash-strapped club failed to pay its stadium suppliers.
With bank accounts frozen, the Warriors missed a 5pm deadline to settle unpaid bills with medical and security providers.
The Premiership fixture cannot go ahead without the essential services, edging the club one step closer towards going bust.
Co-owners Colin Goldring and Jason Whittingham claimed on Tuesday to have agreed terms on investment to ease the club's debts.
But the deal remains in doubt after they failed to deliver a promised update yesterday, with the investor remaining anonymous.
Director of rugby Steve Diamond said: 'I'm not here to fluff it. If people aren't paid, and suppliers aren't paid, then I don't think, logistically, the game can go on.
'These people have got to deliver and I think they're in the last throes of that. If they're not then I probably won't be sat in front of you again. That's the reality of it.
'I'm too old and ugly to be naive to think they're spinning a yarn. I don't think they are.'
Goldring and Whittingham have lost the confidence of staff and players after weeks of financial chaos.
Sportsmail understands there have been 15 resignations in the non-rugby department over unpaid and partially-paid wages.
Staff shortages make staging the fixture a logistical challenge, with car park attending and ticket distribution proving difficult.
'It needs rebooting,' said Diamond. 'It is in a dire state and all money is welcome. The owners are in a position where there's a lot of artillery aimed at them, rightly or wrongly, and they are genuinely trying to do their best.
'We are in uncharted waters. It has not happened to many clubs. Richmond, 25 years ago, was the last one and I was still playing so I didn't have to put up with this political mess.'
Meanwhile, Leicester wing Harry Potter has admitted he would welcome a Test call-up from England, but will face a big decision whether to represent them or Australia.
Potter, 24, was born in Wimbledon but moved to Australia when he was 10.
'I haven't been contacted about it. It would be great if the opportunity came along,' he said.
'I'd cross that bridge when I got to it. So long as we're doing well at Leicester and I'm playing well, then those decisions will be much easier.'

'Inclusive' London's non-binary option

MARATHON

RUNNERS in the mass-participation race at next year's London Marathon will be able to register as non-binary for the first time.
Participants will have three gender options when they enter the ballot, with organisers aiming to make the event 'truly inclusive'. The change does not affect the elite races, which will be divided into male and female categories as per World Athletics rules.
'Changes such as this demonstrate our commitment to making this an event that is for everyone,' said race director Hugh Brasher.

DAVID COVERDALE

Dream Teemu: Pukki celebrates with team-mates after putting Norwich 1-0 ahead PA

Canaries flying as Pukki doubles up

NORWICH 3
BRISTOL CITY 2

By JON WEST
at Carrow Road

TWO goals from Teemu Pukki and a clincher from Josh Sargent earned Norwich a sixth straight Championship victory.
The Canaries consolidated second place behind leaders Sheffield United, but the Robins could claim to be superior in all departments apart from defending.
Dean Smith's side had to hang on for the points after Bristol City made it 3-2 in the 77th minute with a goal home fans were convinced should not have stood.
Nigel Pearson's side were close to going ahead in the first minute when Sam Byram's wayward pass across his own box gave Tommy Conway a sight of goal, but the striker could not hit the target.
Pukki showed him how to capitalise on an error with Norwich's 11th-minute opener. Kal Naismith made a mess of dealing with Kenny McLean's free-kick punt upfield, the Finland forward nipped in to lift the bouncing ball away from goalkeeper Dan Bentley as he came out and headed the ball into the empty net in one smooth movement.
Pukki benefited from another Naismith miscalculation in the 23rd minute. McLean intercepted his pass and Aaron Ramsey sent Pukki clear for a shot that was deflected past Bentley at his near post off Zak Vyner.
Norwich went on to prove that their lead had been undeserved by being given the runaround for the rest of the half, with Conway leaping to meet Nakhi Wells' cross from the left to halve the deficit in the 44th minute.
Wells directed a header straight at Norwich goalkeeper Tim Krul early in the second period as the visitors continued where they left off. Norwich made a double change on the hour mark with Onel Hernandez and Gabriel Sara replacing Ramsey and the ineffectual Todd Cantwell.
Sara claimed an assist in the 65th minute from a corner to the near post that was met by the head of Sargent, who had got ahead of Vyner. Keeper Bentley got a touch but there was too much power to keep it out.
Bentley pulled off a fine save to deny Pukki his hat-trick in the 75th minute when Canaries captain Grant Hanley nodded on another fizzing corner delivery from Sara, the Brazilian midfielder who was signed in the summer. Pukki latched on to the loose ball but Bentley made a point-blank parry.
The Robins pulled a goal back in controversial style in the 78th minute when Wells caught Max Aarons on the edge of the box but referee David Webb allowed play to continue. Marcelino Nunez was caught in possession by Joe Williams and fellow substitute Antoine Semenyo lashed home.
Norwich earlier confirmed that Mark Attanasio, owner of the Milwaukee Brewers baseball franchise, had joined the board via a £10million purchase of 18 per cent of the shares.

Mowbray men into top six as Coventry still without a win

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND-UP

By LEWIS STEELE

PATRICK ROBERTS scored a quick-fire double as Tony Mowbray claimed his first away win as SUNDERLAND boss. The former Manchester City winger's goals came on 39 and 41 minutes and both were after individual acts of brilliance.
The second saw him dance past the challenge of two READING defenders before slotting into the far corner with his left foot.
Both goals were assisted by Elliot Embleton, who came on just minutes earlier after Ellis Simms added to Sunderland's injury crisis.
They added another on 69 minutes after a fantastic passing move culminated in a great cross from Dan Neil and finish by Jack Clarke.
It puts Mowbray's men into the play-off spots on goal difference, just ahead of QPR, who defeated MILLWALL 2-0.
Chris Willock opened the scoring with QPR's seventh goal from outside the box this season — more than any side in England's top four leagues. Stefan Johansen added the second.
ROTHERHAM thrashed BLACKPOOL 3-0 to continue their positive start to life back in the Championship.
Chiedozie Ogbene opened the scoring before Wes Harding and Georgie Kelly added two more late on.
COVENTRY are still winless this season but showed good fight to twice come from behind to draw 2-2 at LUTON.

SCAN THIS CODE FOR ALL LAST NIGHT'S CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION

SPORT IN BRIEF

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

RANGERS .....(0) 0 **NAPOLI**.....(0) 3
Politano 68 (pen)
Raspadori 85
Ndombele 90
64,341

CHELSEA.....(0) 1 **RB SALZBURG** ..... (0) 1
Sterling 48 Okafor 75 38,818

Group E

AC MILAN.....(1) 3 **DINAMO ZAGREB**... (0) 1
Giroud 45 (pen)
Saelemaekers 47
Pobega 77
Orsic 56
64,341

CHELSEA.....(0) 1 **RB SALZBURG** ..... (0) 1
Sterling 48 Okafor 75 38,818

Group F

REAL MADRID ...(0) 2 **RB LEIPZIG**.....(0) 0
Valverde 80, Asensio 90

S DONETSK..... (1) 1 **CELTIC**.....(1) 1
Mudryk 29 Bondarenko 10 (og)
20,697

Group G

FC COPENHAGEN .(0) 0 **SEVILLA**.....(0) 0

MAN CITY.....(0) 2 **B DORTMUND**..... (0) 1
Stones 80
Haaland 84
Bellingham 56

GROUP H

JUVENTUS..... (1) 1 **BENFICA**..... (1) 2
Milik 4
Joao Mario 43 (pen)
Neres 55

MAC HAIFA..... (1) 1 **PSG**..... (1) 3
Chery 24
Messi 37, Mbappe 69
Neymar 88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
PSG	2	2	0	0	5	2	3	6
Benfica	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
Juventus	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
Mac Haifa	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

LUTON.....(2) 2 **COVENTRY** ..... (1) 2
Morris 4, 15
Gyokeres 11
Hamer 61
9,546

MILLWALL .....(0) 0 **QPR**.....(0) 2
Willock 54
Johansen 71

NORWICH.....(2) 3 **BRISTOL CITY**..... (1) 2
Pukki 11, 23
Sargent 65
Conway 44
Semenyo 77
35,287

READING.....(0) 0 **SUNDERLAND**.....(2) 3
Roberts 39, 41
Clarke 69

ROTHERHAM.....(1) 3 **BLACKPOOL**.....(0) 0
Ogbene 34, Harding 82
Kelly 85
9,105

WEST BROM.....(1) 2 **BIRMINGHAM**..... (1) 3
Wallace 23
Thomas-Asante 83 (pen)
Hogan 14, 54, 71

■RUGBY LEAGUE

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP — Sheffield 34 Dewsbury 24.

■RUGBY UNION

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL — England 73 Wales 7.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sheff Utd	9	6	2	1	17	5	12	20
Norwich	9	6	1	2	15	8	7	19
Blackburn	9	5	0	4	11	11	0	15
Reading	9	5	0	4	9	14	-5	15
Burnley	9	3	5	1	15	9	6	14
Sunderland	9	4	2	3	14	9	5	14
Bristol City	9	4	2	3	18	14	4	14
QPR	9	4	2	3	14	11	3	14
Rotherham	8	3	4	1	12	6	6	13
Watford	9	3	4	2	9	9	0	13
Wigan	8	3	4	1	9	10	-1	13
Preston	9	2	6	1	3	2	1	12
Stoke	9	3	2	4	11	11	0	11
Birmingham	9	3	2	4	8	10	-2	11
Cardiff	9	3	2	4	7	10	-3	11
Blackpool	9	3	2	4	9	13	-4	11
Hull	9	3	2	4	11	18	-7	11
Luton	9	2	4	3	9	10	-1	10
Millwall	9	3	1	5	9	13	-4	10
West Brom	9	1	6	2	14	13	1	9
Middlesbro	9	2	3	4	13	15	-2	9
Swansea	9	2	3	4	7	12	-5	9
Huddersfield	8	1	1	6	8	13	-5	4
Coventry	6	0	2	4	7	13	-6	2

■TENNIS

DAVIS CUP FINALS GROUP STAGE — Group C: France 1 Germany 2.

■TODAY'S ACTION

(8.0 unless stated)

EUROPA LEAGUE GROUP E

Real Sociedad v O Nicosia .....(5.45)
Sheriff v Man Utd .....(5.45)
Live on BT Sport 2

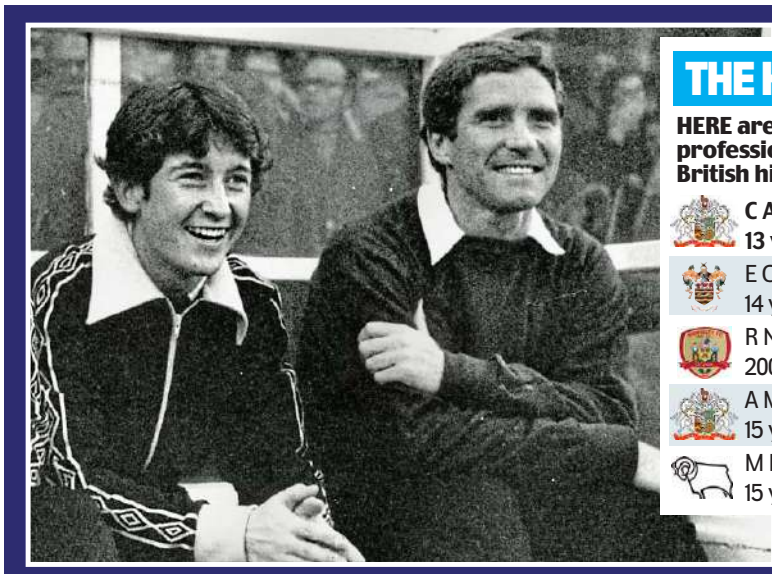
Group A: Bodo/Glimt v Zurich. **Group B:** Dynamo Kiev v AEK Larnaca, Rennes v Fenerbahce. **Group C:** Real Betis v Ludogorets, Roma v HJK. **Group D:** Braga v Union Berlin, Union Saint Gilloise v Malmo FF. **Group F:** FC Midtjylland v Lazio (5.45), Feyenoord v Sturm Graz (5.45). **Group G:** Karabakh v Nantes (5.45), Olympiacos v Freiburg (5.45). **Group H:** Monaco v Ferencvaros (5.45), Trabzonspor v Red Star Belgrade (5.45).

EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE GROUP B

FCSB v Anderlecht .....
Silkeborg v West Ham.....
Live on BT Sport 2

Group A: Istanbul Basaksehir v Fiorentina, Rigas FS v Hearts (Live on BT Sport 1). **Group F:** Djurgarden v Molde (5.45), Gent v Shamrock Rov (5.45, Live on BT Sport 3).

RUGBY UNION — The Rugby Championship: Australia v New Zealand (10.45am).



THE HISTORY BOYS

HERE are the five youngest professional footballers in British history...

- **C Atherton, Glenavon, 2021 13 years and 329 days.**
- E Collins, Blackpool, 1980, 14 years and 323 days.
- R Noble-Lazarus, Barnsley, 2008, 15 years and 45 days.
- A McIlmail, Glenavon, 2016, 15 years, 57 days.
- M Bennett, Derby, 2011, 15 years, 99 days.

Child's play: Christopher Atherton (right) on debut for Glenavon. Above: previous record holder Eamonn Collins with Alan Ball at Blackpool in 1980 PACEMAKER PRESS/REX

13 Northern Irish teen becomes the youngest UK senior player... and sets up goal with his first touch!

by JACK GAUGHAN

A 13-YEAR-OLD schoolboy made history by becoming the UK's youngest senior player — and the monumental moment could have arrived even sooner.

Christopher Atherton's incredible feat came for Northern Ireland's Glenavon in a 6-0 League Cup victory over Dollingstown on Tuesday night.

At 13 years and 329 days old, Atherton was introduced as a late substitute and made an instant impact when assisting Glenavon's final goal with his first touch.

The teenager broke the record, set by Eamonn Collins in 1980, when Alan Ball handed him a debut for Blackpool as a 14-year-old.

Atherton's manager, Gary Hamilton, revealed Glenavon had initially planned to give him a first taste of professional game during the final game of last season's league campaign against Warrenpoint Town.

Atherton was instead travelling to Glasgow to take in the Old Firm derby.

'He came to train with the first team before the last match of last season and if he hadn't gone to watch Celtic with his dad then he would've played in that match as well,' Hamilton said.

'He's a special talent. There is a lot of interest in him from cross-channel clubs and I'm not surprised.

'It fills you full of joy and pride. He didn't give the ball away once. A lot of us at that age would be dreaming of becoming a footballer and that it's a million miles away, but with him I had no doubt that I could bring him on in a game if we got ahead.'

Atherton, who is attracting interest from academies in England and Scotland, has strong role models to follow in the game, with the likes of James Milner and Aaron Lennon enjoying illustrious careers after breaking through at a young age.

There are other examples, such as former Manchester City midfielder Michael Johnson, that indicate paying careful attention to managing a youngster's trajectory is crucial if they are to flourish.

As Portsmouth boss, Ball re-signed former record holder Collins from Southampton in May 1986, before the dimunitive Dubliner went on to make over 100 appearances for Colchester United and followed mentor Ball to Exeter in 1991.

The Guinness book of World Records marks Bolivian Mauricio Baldivieso as the youngest player to have played professional football in 2009 when his father Julio Cesar Baldivieso handed him his debut for Aurora FC aged 12.

'He's the best player I've ever seen at his age. He eats the right food and goes to bed at the right time'

'I've watched Christopher for years and I've been saying for a long time that he is the best player I've ever seen at his age,' Hamilton added.

'There is a long way to go but if he keeps going the way he is, stays humble. He has got good parents who don't get too far ahead of themselves.

'He's a joy to watch. The work he does away from training, and the dedication he has to become a professional footballer, is unbelievable and what separates him from a lot of kids in the academy.

'He works night and day at his game, he eats the right food, he goes to bed at the right time.

'He's doing everything he can to give himself the best opportunity. He's a credit to himself and his family.'

Moyes: I won't take risks on plastic pitch

DAVID MOYES admits Silkeborg's plastic pitch has given him a selection headache ahead of West Ham's Conference League game. Defenders Craig Dawson and Aaron Cresswell are in the squad after spells out injured, but he may not risk them in Denmark on the super-fast turf of the 10,000-seater JYSK Park. 'We respect that it's an artificial pitch and we have some decisions to make,' said the West Ham boss. 'We'll have a look at Craig and Aaron and check out what's best for them.'

Fellow defender Ben Johnson is still sidelined but midfielder Tomas Soucek and winger Maxwel Cornet have shaken off knocks.

Thilo Kehrer is expected to feature after overcoming a tricky start. 'I feel like it's been a kick-start directly into my West Ham career and it has been the best way to integrate,' the defender said. 'I knew that I would have to adapt and I am still doing that.'

● Silkeborg v West Ham, **LIVE** on BT Sport 2, 8pm kick-off.

DAVID KENT

Costa in frame to face City

By TOM COLLOMOSSE

DIEGO COSTA has taken part in a full training session for the first time since joining Wolves and has an outside chance of facing Manchester City on Saturday. The former Chelsea forward has signed a deal at Molineux until the end of the season after summer signing Sasa Kalajdzic damaged knee ligaments on his debut. Costa (right) will follow a tailored fitness programme to bring him up to speed but his involvement this week means hopes are growing he could feature against City. The 33-year-old has not played since leaving Brazilian club Atletico Mineiro in January but may still be included in Bruno Lage's squad. Costa warned Wolves fans not to expect an immediate impact.

He said: 'I will need two to three weeks to get back in shape. But I know I can do it. If I had ever doubted my potential, I wouldn't have accepted this challenge. I can bring something to the table.' Wolves desperately need Costa to find his rhythm quickly as Raul Jimenez is struggling with injury, leaving Lage very short of options in attack.

I know I need to do better, says Van Dijk

VIRGIL VAN DIJK has accepted his form has dropped below the standards he demands of himself. The Netherlands captain has had a chequered start to the campaign, with the low point being an on-field spat with team-mate James Milner at Old Trafford last month.

And during a frank discussion, Van Dijk was willing to hold his hands up and admit to recent shortcomings. 'There are times when you can have a blip like this, unfortunately, and it is how you react to it,' he said.

'We are good if we perform as a team. If you lose the connection, you can have performances like we had last week (against Napoli).

'If we do well I obviously get praise, and if we don't, then I don't. But I still think I need to improve and that's fine.

'I've said it many times, we are all human beings and we all want to do as well as we can and the same goes for me. I know for a fact I can do better, but we can all do better.'

DOMINIC KING

Soviet Bloc trip has Ten Hag dreaming of Champions League

CHRIS WHEELER in Chisinau

IT'S a scene to make Manchester United long for those Champions League nights. Ugly grey blocks of flats tower over the tiny Zimbru Stadium in Chisinau, the Moldovan capital chosen to host this evening's Europa League Group E tie because FC Sheriff's home ground in the unrecognised state of Transnistria was deemed too dangerous by UEFA due to the war in neighbouring Ukraine.

The venue where a sell-out crowd of 8,800 fans will watch the game may have been built in 2006, but there is an unmistakeable air of the old Soviet Bloc.

Even though United have toured some far-flung outposts in recent years, the club's first ever trip to Moldova will take some beating. No wonder goalkeeper David de Gea had the Champions League on his mind when he and manager Erik ten Hag attended a press conference in front of a handful of reporters in a stuffy old gymnasium here last night.

'Of course, in my opinion we should be playing Champions League, but this is a competition we have to play for — we will go with everything,' said United's keeper.

Ten Hag was asked by a local journalist if United will sign some autographs after the game. 'We will think about it but also after the game we have to go straight to the airport and return to Manchester,' said the United boss.

'The players have international duties and we have to prepare for that.'

Ten Hag will be hoping to go home with a win to make the trip worthwhile, but that won't be easy against a club that stunned Real Madrid 2-1 at the Bernabeu in the Champions League a year ago and won 3-0 away to Omonia Nicosia last week.

Victory is all the more important for United after losing their group opener to Real Sociedad at Old Trafford. There is still margin for error but that didn't stop Ten Hag from painting this as must-win.

'Pressure is for every game,' he added. 'It's clear that when you lose the first game you have to win the second. We know what our task is.

'They beat Real Madrid last year, they're capable of doing that. We have to be ready and prepared for that game. It's a serious and decent opponent, and we have to play our best to get the win.'

United landed here yesterday without Marcus Rashford, Anthony Martial, Donny van de Beek and Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

All four players are understood to be injured with United sources dismissing speculation in Holland that Van de Beek has been dropped.

WATCHING BRIEF...

FC SHERIFF v MAN UTD

Kick-off: 5.45pm, Zimbru Stadium.
TV: LIVE on BT Sport 2 from 5.15pm.
Referee: Pawel Raczkowski (Poland).

United meet the Moldovan mafia!

Tonight's opponents FC Sheriff play in a political black hole dubbed Europe's most lawless place

by ROBERT O'CONNOR

TIRASPOL is mafia country and today Manchester United go up against FC Sheriff, who are financed by a black market that their owners helped create.

The Moldovan champions may have conquered Real Madrid in the Bernabeu last season, but it was navigating shady matters beyond football that saw them rise to power.

Sheriff, named after the highly influential local company that own them, are based in Transnistria — an unrecognised, political black hole formed in the wake of the Soviet Union which has been dubbed Europe's most lawless corner — and ironclad secrecy surrounds everything they do.

All matters relating to their finances are kept strictly hidden, including contracts and transfer fees paid and received.

The club adopts a policy of total non-cooperation with the media, while the most serious allegations surrounding how their owners make their money range from smuggling alcohol and cigarettes, to illegally supplying weapons to foreign despots.

Sheriff may be sustained these days by riches earned in the Champions League, but they were built by contraband.

Sheriff usually play their home games in the Transnistria capital of Tiraspol, which enjoys a direct diplomatic line to Moscow and houses a sizeable Russian military garrison. The area has been deemed a security risk by UEFA, so Erik ten Hag will instead take his team to the Moldovan capital, Chisinau, in search of their first Europa League points of the season.

Tiraspol is also a wild frontier of mafia-like activity, with Sheriff sitting king-like on a throne at its murky centre. The club's 2-1 win in Madrid last year, courtesy of a late winner from the now-departed Luxembourg defender Sebastien Thill, sent shockwaves through European football.

The continent's most glamorous club, who would go on to lift the Champions League trophy in May, were humbled in their own back yard by a side that few could have placed on a map.

FC Sheriff — formed by their owners' co-founder, ex-KGB officer Viktor Gushan, in 1997 — began their hostile takeover of Moldovan football almost immediately. They won their first league crown in 2001, and to date have won 20 of the last 22 titles.

The club's HQ houses a hotel, a state-of-the-art training centre and a fine 13,000-seater stadium that would serve a small Premier League side. It covers a sprawling site the size of a village, and puts to shame the greying, ramshackle outlines that comprise the rest of poor, Soviet-inspired Tiraspol. Yet for all the team's success, there is something depressingly clinical about Sheriff's football story.

'Sheriff typically build a team very quickly, maybe in just a year,' says their former midfielder Ivan Testemitanu. 'They look for young, talented players from abroad, give them a year or two together, then sell them for a profit. That's Sheriff politics. It's a good business model.'

'Sheriff politics' is the reason not a single member of the side that won at the Bernabeu started the club's Europa League victory against Omonia last week.

'They've sold most of their team this year, which is unusual,' says an anonymous official at the Moldovan Football Association. 'Normally five or six will go each year, but after what they did last year everyone wanted to buy them. They're selling players for millions, which is also unusual.'

The awkward pay-off is that there isn't a single Moldovan player in Sheriff's starting XI, but for a club that is politically divorced from the country to which it is tied, that's a negligible price to pay.

Still, being driven out of Tiraspol and into Chisinau by the war in Ukraine means a chance, at long last, for Moldova to make some kind of meaningful association with Sheriff and European success.

'Our national team haven't done well for years,' says Testemitanu. 'Nobody wants to watch Moldova, but at least Sheriff are doing something to make our football popular. It's a great thing for Moldova.'

Real shock: Sheriff celebrate a famous win in Madrid GETTY IMAGES

Schism: Transnistria's coat of arms

Capital gains: Tiraspol

Allegations range from smuggling alcohol and cigarettes to illegally supplying weapons to foreign despots

EUROPA LEAGUE GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sheriff	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
Real Sociedad	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Man Utd	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Omonia	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

Rashford's fitness test to determine England call

By SAMI MOKBEL
Chief Football Reporter

GARETH SOUTHGATE will make a late check on Marcus Rashford's fitness before deciding whether to recall the Manchester United forward today.

The 24-year-old has not featured for England since November last year but is back on Southgate's radar thanks to a promising start to the season under new United manager Erik ten Hag.

England medics were last night discussing Rashford's muscle injury with their United counterparts before Southgate makes a final decision on his availability. Rashford was not included in United's travelling party to face FC Sheriff in Moldova tonight, but Ten Hag says the injury is 'not really bad' and expects the forward to be back in the team 'quite soon'.

Whether Rashford is fit enough to be considered for England's trip to Italy next Friday remains to be seen. But even if he isn't deemed available for the Nations League clash at the San Siro, England medics will seek clarification on whether Rashford could recover in time to face Germany the following Monday.

The concerns over Rashford's fitness will boost Brentford striker Ivan Toney's hopes of a first call-up after impressing over the past 12 months.

The 26-year-old has scored 17 Premier League goals since Brentford's promotion last year and is understood to have impressed Southgate and his backroom team.

Tottenham defender Eric Dier and Chelsea left back Ben Chilwell are back in contention, but Luke Shaw is sweating on his place after falling out of favour under Ten Hag at United.

Dean Henderson is hopeful of replacing injured goalkeeper Jordan Pickford in the squad.

● PAUL POGBA'S brother Mathias is being temporarily detained and questioned by police in France, a source close to the investigation said yesterday, after the Juventus midfielder claimed he was the target of extortion attempts and threats by an armed gang.

JACK GAUGHAN
at the Etihad Stadium

MAN CITY 2
Stones 80
Haaland 84

B DORTMUND 1
Bellingham 56

Acrobatic: Haaland flies through the air to win it GETTY IMAGES

Haaland haunts Dortmund with late wonder goal

THERE will arrive a time, a night, when Erling Haaland is not the story. It will come, probably fleetingly. Just not yet. And not for a while either.

So, Haaland again. Six minutes from time, a volley to turn this game for Manchester City.

Describing it as a mere volley probably doesn't do the finish justice. Unfathomably acrobatic, one leg level with his head to meet Joao Cancelo's impish cross, it brought the roof off the Etihad Stadium.

The man cannot be stopped. Not at home, not abroad — although Borussia Dortmund went so close against an individual who used to do all this for them until a few months ago. They know better than anyone what invariably occurs when a ball is delivered into Haaland's corridor. Bang, the game has gone.

'Yeah I knew it (would be him) to be honest,' rued Jude Bellingham. Dejected and rightly so: he knows City got away with one last night.

For a team so measured, so controlled, Pep Guardiola's side possess this weird knack of rousing moments, improbable comebacks. They had not registered a shot on target until John Stones decided he would just whack one into the top corner from nowhere with 10 minutes remaining.

Dortmund's goalkeeper, Alexander Meyer, may feel he ought to have stopped it but that Stones strike created the potential for a Haaland crescendo. What happened next left Dortmund, and their boss Edin Terzic, wondering quite how it all transpired.

'People know the influence Johan Cruyff had in my life — as a player, coach and mentor — and many years ago he scored an incredible goal in the Camp Nou for Barcelona against Atletico Madrid,' said Guardiola. 'Erling's was quite similar. The moment he scored I thought, "ah Cruyff". Exceptional. It's nice he emulated him. Like my dear friend (Zlatan) Ibrahimovic, too. He is elastic.

'But we had a lot of problems in the game. We were so passive. We played in the wrong gear.'

Inspired by Bellingham, who scored 11 minutes into the second half, Dortmund forced those issues and had held City magnificently, leaving them bereft of ideas for a fair chunk of the evening.

Haaland went to every Dortmund player and coach at the end of this dramatic reunion with genuine warmth, just as Guardiola went to remonstrate with referee Daniele Orsato, earning a booking for his troubles. He later apologised.

Terzic had made a real point of not wanting to direct all of Dortmund's focus on Haaland. Difficult not to, of course — particularly given what they know about him.

Niklas Sule nicked in to take Riyad Mahrez's inviting cross right off the Norwegian's head inside the six-yard box in a rare moment of City outmanoeuvring their well-drilled visitors.

Salih Ozcan's dipping effort from 20 yards was the closest Dortmund came before the break and the move was all down to Bellingham. The 19-year-old oozes class, is intelligent beyond his years, and was again a shining light — as he had been when Dortmund went out at the quarter-final stage against City in 2021.

Bellingham made the chance for Ozcan with poise in the middle of the park, shimmying through a crowd and calmly popping off for Raphael Guerreiro to gallivant forward from left back. Bellingham

GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manchester City	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	6
B Dortmund	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	3
Copenhagen	2	0	1	1	0	3	-3	1
Sevilla	2	0	1	1	0	4	-4	1

Conte hauls in Spurs flops for early training

By SAMI MOKBEL
Chief Football Reporter

ANTONIO CONTE ordered his Tottenham players in for a morning session yesterday just hours after Tuesday night's Champions League capitulation at Sporting Lisbon.

Spurs slumped to a 2-0 defeat in the Portuguese capital despite the game being goalless in the 90th minute.

Tottenham flew into Southend Airport directly after the match before heading back to the club's Lodge retreat at their Enfield training HQ.

The players were always due to spend the night at the training ground on Tuesday, but it had originally been with a view to an afternoon training session.

Conte had not informed the players of their schedule for Wednesday and broke the news of their earlier-than-anticipated start after the match.

He is understood to have brought training forward to 11am as a consequence of his team's dismal implosion in Lisbon.

The Italian was clearly angered by the way Spurs fell apart in the closing stages at the Estadio Jose Alvalade. Conte is understood to have torn into his players in the dressing room immediately after the defeat.

Speaking on Tuesday night, he said: 'To play in this competition, you have to reduce the mistakes because at the end you can pay and we paid, we paid a lot. Now, instead of a draw, we are talking about a loss against a team that is used to playing in this competition.'

In contrast, Chelsea's players trained at 2pm last Wednesday after their defeat at Dinamo Zagreb — a game that also kicked off at 5.45pm the day before.

But Conte (right) has a reputation for being a taskmaster and his decision to enforce a morning session could easily be deemed as a punishment for Tuesday evening's meek display.

He will be hoping his side deliver an emphatic response to their first defeat of the season when Spurs face Leicester on Saturday. The loss in Lisbon was the eighth consecutive game Son Heung-min has gone without scoring since the start of the season.

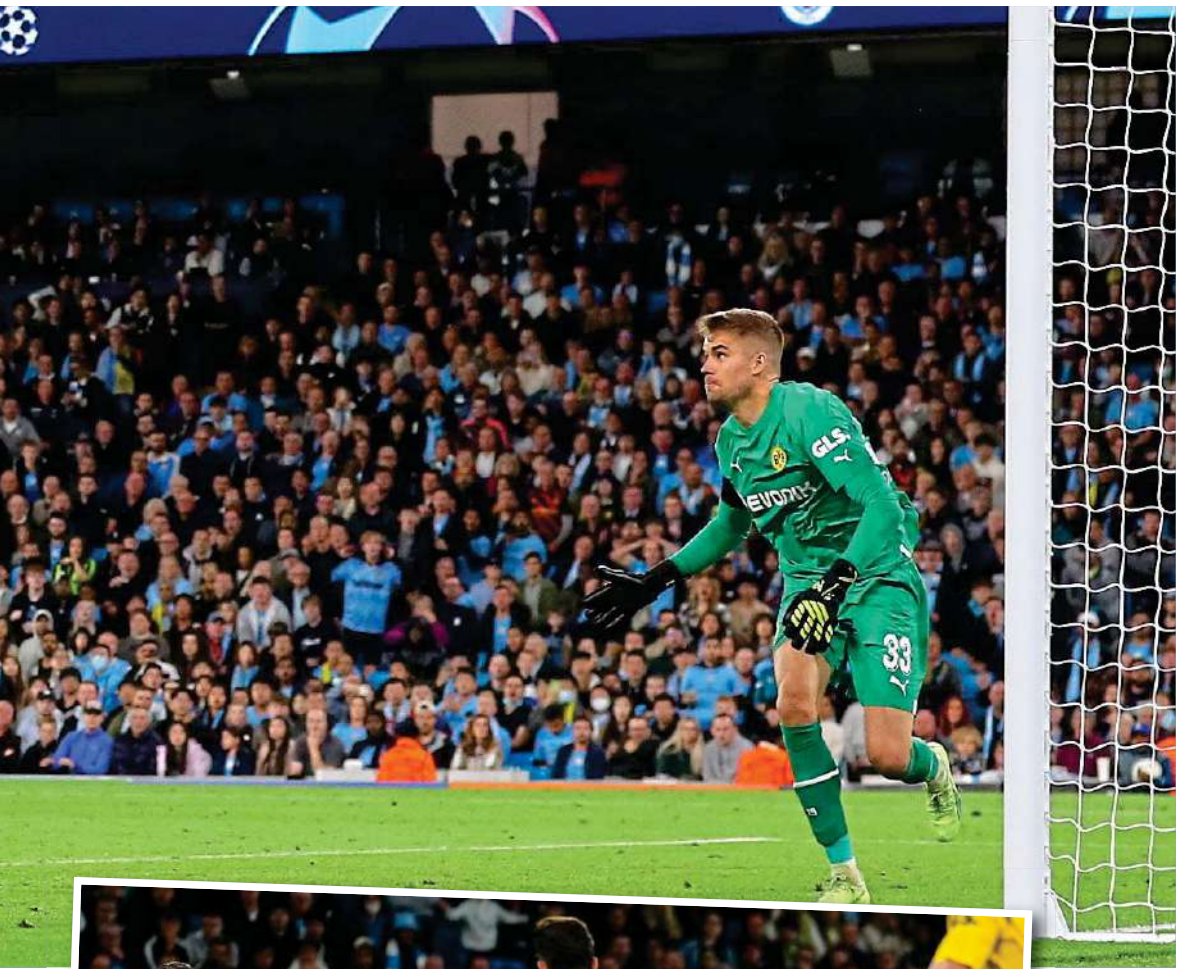
Having warned the Korean, who shared the Golden Boot with Mo Salah last season, that his place in the team is no longer guaranteed, Conte took off Son for Dejan Kulusevski with 18 minutes left in Portugal.

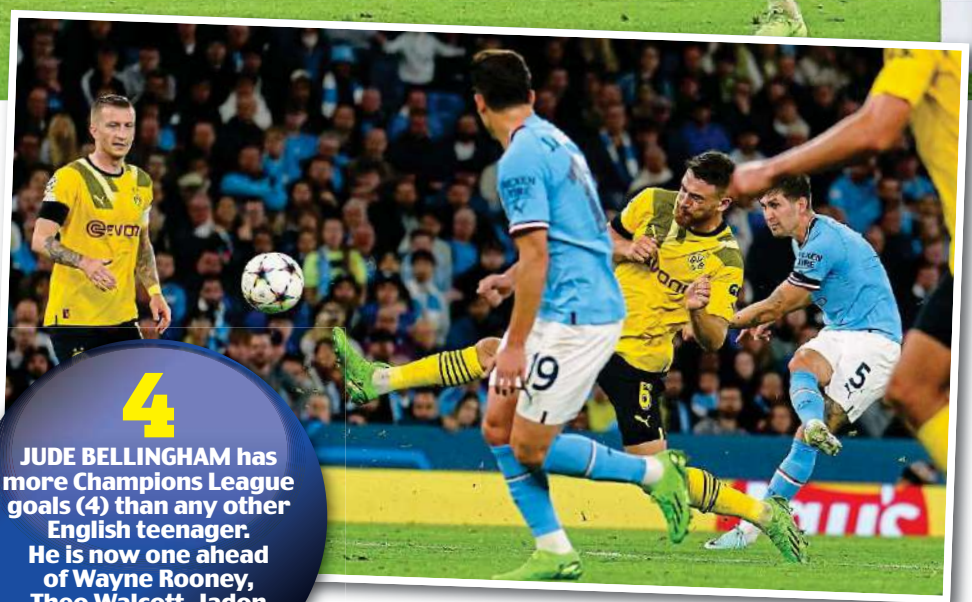
Son's form will be of concern to Conte heading into Saturday's match against Leicester, but it remains to be seen whether the Italian sticks with the 30-year-old in his starting XI. Dropping one of the club's star forwards would bring further scrutiny on Son's start to the season — but with Richarlison, Son and Kulusevki effectively vying for two spots up front alongside Harry Kane, Conte faces a dilemma.

Meanwhile, Portuguese sources have indicated Spurs have a 50 per cent sell-on clause for Sporting forward Marcus Edwards, who came through the ranks in north London.

Edwards, 23, was excellent in Tuesday's match in Portugal, with one magical run that nearly led to Sporting taking a half-time lead a particular highlight.

Sporting manager Ruben Amorim is tipping Edwards to break into the senior England squad and Spurs are set to benefit financially if he eventually leaves the Portuguese club.





4

JUDE BELLINGHAM has more Champions League goals (4) than any other English teenager. He is now one ahead of Wayne Rooney, Theo Walcott, Jadon Sancho and Phil Foden.

Rocket man: City level as Stones unleashes a powerful strike PA

was later wheeling away in front of the travelling thousands, arms outstretched.

Haaland had cleared Giovanni Reyna's corner to Marco Reus on the edge of the box and the forward's shot found a Brummie nestled between two former team-mates.

Haaland and Manuel Akanji could do nothing as Bellingham headed beyond Ederson. Terzic leapt from his seat and Guardiola did too, calling on three substitutes — Phil Foden, Bernardo Silva and Julian Alvarez — who immediately offered more impetus.

Haaland struck the post as City toiled but then it came, Stones from 25 yards.

City were not done, but Dortmund certainly were. Cancelo menaced from wide, a deep cross with the outside of his right foot in an area for Haaland to attack. You know the rest.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-2-3-1): Ederson 6; Stones 6, Akanji 6, Ake 6 (Wilson-Esbrand 59min, 6), Cancelo 7; Rodri 6, Gundogan 6 (Silva 58, 7); Mahrez 6 (Alvarez 58, 7), De Bruyne 7, Grealish 5.5 (Foden 59, 7.5); **HAALAND 8.5** (Phillips 90).
Scorers: Stones 80, Haaland 84.
Booked: Rodri, Guardiola, Foden.
Manager: Pep Guardiola 6.5.
BORUSSIA DORTMUND (4-3-2-1): Meyer 5; Meunier 6, Sule 7, Hummels 7, Guerreiro 6; Ozcan 7 (Adeyemi 88), Can 6, Bellingham 8; Reus 7 (Moukoko 88), Reyna 7 (Malen 62, 5); Modeste 6.5 (Schlotterbeck 78).
Scorer: Bellingham 56.
Booked: Malen, Ozcan, Meunier.
Manager: Edin Terzic 6.
Referee: Daniele Orsato (Italy) 6. **Att:** 50,441.

We deserved more, says Celtic boss

S DONETSK 1
CELTIC 1

By GEORGE GRANT

ANGE POSTECOGLOU felt his 'excellent' Celtic side did not receive their just rewards in Warsaw despite getting off the mark in the Champions League. The Scottish champions were the better team for the majority of the game against Shakhtar Donetsk, but were forced to settle for a 1-1 draw.

After taking an early lead through Artem Bondarenko's own goal, Celtic were pegged back when Mykhailo Mudryk struck on the counter attack. Celtic dominated the second half and, despite his side failing to convert a string of chances, Postecoglou said: 'The performance was excellent. The result was not reflective of that but the players gave everything. We needed that second goal and we had good chances to get it. From my perspective, I can't ask for more from them.

'We will get our rewards if we keep playing that kind of football and showing that sort of commitment.'

Celtic wore black armbands as a mark of respect for the Queen, although there was no minute's silence before the match.

Postecoglou was encouraged that his players got stronger the longer the game went on — in contrast to the latter stages against holders Real Madrid last week.

'More significant than the point is the performance,' he said. 'It is the highest level of club football. Every game is pressurised, every moment of every game is important.

'I just thought there was real growth in our team and in the way we handled it all.'

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	5	0	5	6
S Donetsk	2	1	1	0	5	2	3	4
Celtic	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	1
RB Leipzig	2	0	0	2	1	6	-5	0

Reverence: Ibrox falls silent as fans make a Union flag and Queen mosaic AFP

Sands red card hurts Rangers on emotional night

CRAIG HOPE at Ibrox

RANGERS 0
NAPOLI 3
Politano 68 (pen)
Raspadori 85
Ndombele 90+1

FIRST there was the silence followed by the noise, respectfully and then rousingly observed in marking the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. And how Ibrox revelled in defying UEFA instruction with a hearty chorus of *God Save the King*.

Rangers confirmed before kick-off that they would be playing the national anthem, honouring the wishes of fans as opposed to the suits from Switzerland.

But even the UEFA delegation present would surely admit this was a fitting tribute to the Queen, whose portrait hangs in the home dressing room. It was, hopefully, a forerunner of the scenes across Premier League grounds this weekend.

A pin could have dropped in the car park during the minute's silence and you would have heard it inside this stadium, such was the reverence shown, and all to the backdrop of a Union flag mosaic carrying Her Majesty's silhouette.

The worry, when the action began, was that Rangers would be chasing shadows of their own. Not a chance. Much like their fans before the game, the players did their club proud. Defiance was the mantra of the evening.

Yes, it is a second defeat to leave Rangers bottom of a daunting Group A, but that had as much to do with bad luck and borderline decisions by the officials.

Napoli's Matteo Politano scored the opener from the penalty spot on 68 minutes before Giacomo Raspadori and Tanguy Ndombele added some undue gloss with a pair of close-range finishes late on, but that is not the full story.

Rangers started ferociously and should have been in front inside 30 seconds when Alfredo Morelos headed wide from six yards. The hosts then enjoyed the better of the chances until the real drama — and controversy — started to unfold just before the hour.

Napoli's Giovanni Simeone was sent clear on goal but, with Jamie Sands sliding to recover, the striker was sent tumbling. It looked like the defender had got something of the ball but referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz disagreed and pointed to the spot, showing Sands a second yellow.

But from home fury came furious fun. Piotr Zielinski took the kick and McGregor saved, only for Politano to lash in the rebound. Goal? Not so. The forward had encroached and the penalty would be retaken.

Quite how Napoli got another shot from 12 yards following their infringement is anyone's guess.

Zielinski thought he could outwit McGregor by taking exactly the same penalty but, at 40, the veteran keeper is not one to be made a mug and duly saved.

It was only another debatable refereeing call which finally tipped the game in Napoli's favour, Rangers defender Borna Barisic judged to have handled from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's goal-bound blast. It was close enough for Barisic to feel harshly treated.

This time, Politano stepped up to drive beneath McGregor, who again read the taker's intentions.

But Rangers boss Giovanni van Bronckhorst was right to be encouraged. 'Until the red card we gave Napoli a really tough game,' he said. 'The scoreline did not reflect our quality on the pitch.'

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Napoli	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	6
Liverpool	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
Ajax	2	1	0	1	5	2	3	3
Rangers	2	0	0	2	0	7	-7	0

SCAN QR CODE FOR EXTRA INSIGHT AND ANALYSIS FROM LAST NIGHT'S GAME

Blues let it slip on

Sterling strikes but it's not enough as Chelsea falter under new boss

MARTIN SAMUEL
Chief Sports Writer

CHELSEA	Sterling 48	1
SALZBURG	Okafor 75	1

A NEW era, but familiar problems remain. Chelsea dominated, failed to pull clear, conceded, drew.

Obviously, it could have been worse. Yet Graham Potter, attending his first Champions League game as participant or spectator, would have hoped for more.

There were 15 minutes left when Salzburg, who had been second best for much of the game, caused Stamford Bridge to fall silent for the second time on the night.

An impressive exchange of passes, from the back and through the midfield, ended with substitute Junior Adamu sprinting down the right flank.

His low cross was met by Swiss international Noah Okafor, who lost Thiago Silva, and turned the ball smartly past goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga. First time, too, Potter will have noticed. How Chelsea could have done with a similar sense of determination when the target loomed.

It wasn't like they weren't warned, either. And not only by the many matches that have unfolded like this dating back several years. Even on the night, the signs were there. Just two minutes earlier, Okafor had forced a fine save from Arrizabalaga with a flicked header, at a time in the game when many had decided one would be enough for Chelsea. One isn't enough these days.

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
AC Milan	2	1	1	0	4	2	2	4
Dinamo Zagreb	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
Salzburg	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
Chelsea	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1

Earlier this week, Potter admitted he had never attended a match in this competition, let alone been involved in one, and now he knows how hard it is, even against those teams the Super League snobs would class as fodder.

Potter is, incredibly, only the eighth English manager to lead a team into a Champions League game and just two of that number won their first match.

True, victory hardly proved a lasting omen of good fortune for Craig Shakespeare at Leicester, or Michael Carrick at Manchester United, but Potter still wouldn't have minded being in that company. His new employer seems a little, well, antsy.

So what did we learn? Well, he's all about encouragement, Potter. When Arrizabalaga came haring off his line to head a long Salzburg through-ball to safety, when Chelsea got down the flanks, even if the final pass came to nothing, he raised his arms over his head and clapped heartily, noticeably.

Clapped so he made sure the players knew that was what he wanted — bold play, bold decision-making. And Chelsea had the snap of players trying to impress. Flying into tackles, jumping like stags, powerful high energy. It's all part of the new-manager bounce — although opinion differs on whether Chelsea needed one.

The boss certainly looked the part. Immaculate in black suit and black tie. The minute of silence for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was note perfect as well. Not a murmur, beside the voice of an Austrian radio commentator, who mistakenly believed the ongoing reflection required explanation.

He was swiftly hushed — by stewards and members of the Chelsea bench.

And what did Potter's Chelsea look like? Some will say it plays a back three. No it doesn't. It's not as clearly defined as that tag suggests. If Raheem Sterling was left wing-back he was the highest wing-back in the history of the game. His average position on the field was inside Salzburg's half. He didn't track into the corner, never appeared on the flank deeper than 30 yards from his goal. You cannot be a wing-back — which is half a defensive role — operating from there.

Sterling was deployed to support the forwards, not aid the defence, barely entering his own half.

Reece James, on the other flank, took more defensive duties with Mason Mount kept close. When Chelsea built from the back, Cesar Azpilicueta pushed wide from his central starting position to receive the ball. At best it was a four, three hybrid.

What was most noticeable was who didn't play. No place in the starting line-up for Wesley Fofana or Kalidou Koulibaly. So that's approximately £140million of newly acquired central defence on the fringes.

Still, fair play to Potter for that. He's at his strongest now, as the new man going forward. Not much point picking the owner's team and wondering what his own might have achieved, although he could have done with it keeping a clean sheet or Silva being better for the goal. Until that point, his defence had looked solid enough.

25
RAHEEM STERLING'S goal was his 25th in the Champions League. He has more than all Englishmen but Wayne Rooney (30). Sterling has 250 career goals and assists after last night.

Salzburg chances were few and Arrizabalaga had one real save to make in the first half, when a shot by Benjamin Sesko curled towards the far post and he did well to get down.

Sesko, a giant Slovenian, has been compared to Erling Haaland, but the jury is out. No coach would have been leaving Haaland out of the starting line-up for a match like this in his Borussia Dortmund days and Sesko only got the call when striker Fernando was injured in the warm-up.

Salzburg's only other chance of that half came when Arrizabalaga played a foolish ball, hard and fast at Jorginho on the edge of the area, and he failed to get it under control. Fortunately for Chelsea, their opponents were over-eager in hustling and a foul was committed. That could have been calamitous.

At the other end, same old, same old. Lots of the ball, lots of lovely football, but problems finishing. Sterling, in particular, seemed shot-shy from excellent positions. He was often in and around Salzburg's six-yard box — so rather high for a wing-back — and one wonders what might have happened had the ball fallen to Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang instead.

On a number of occasions, it was crying out for a first-time shot. Sterling took a touch, and was then blocked off.

Ben Chilwell may also be concerned for his Chelsea future with Potter now reunited with Marc Cucurella, who was preferred at left back.

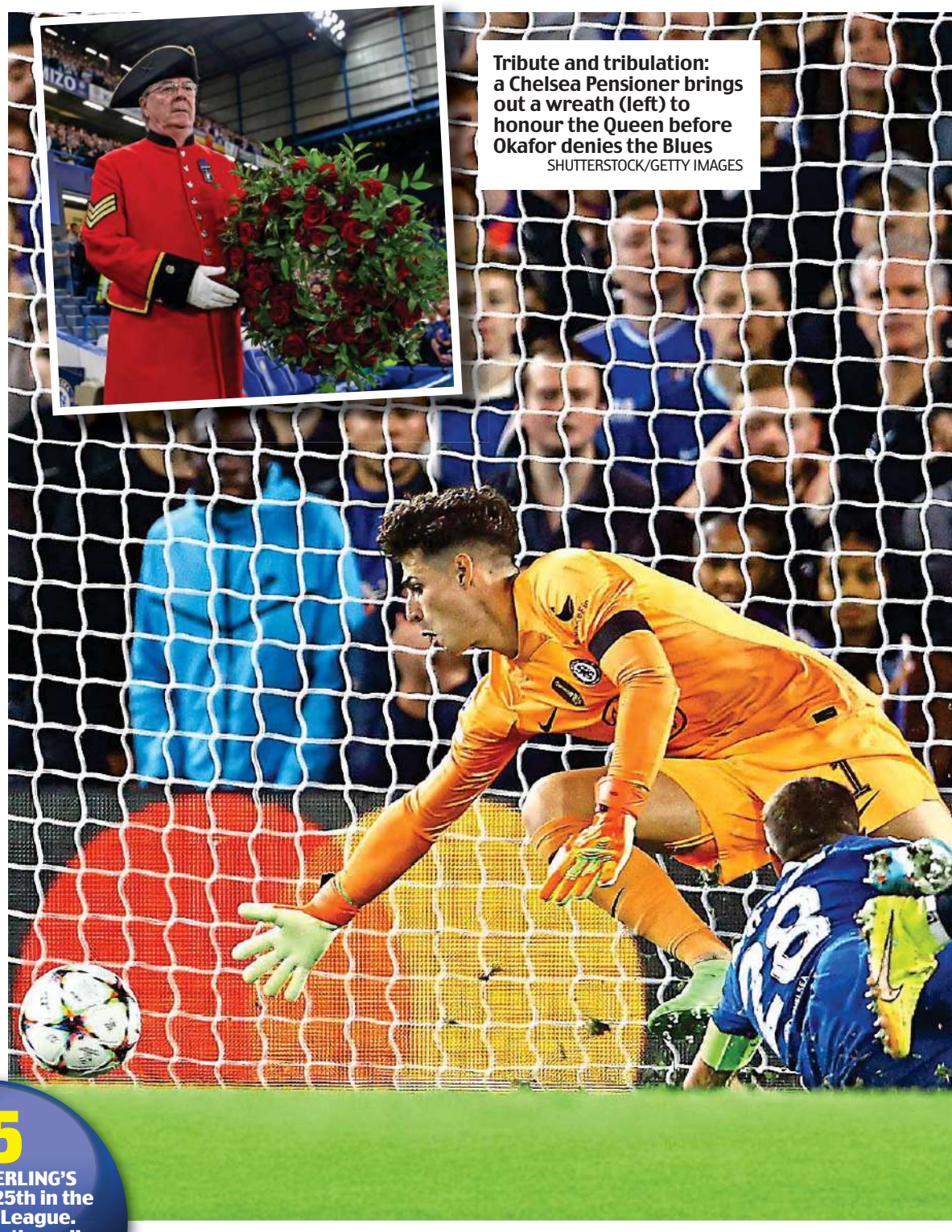
It was his corner that served up Chelsea's first chance after 13 minutes, met by Kai Havertz, whose header was cut off on its way to goal. Cucurella was provider again in the 39th minute, this time with a cutback after Sterling had a shot deflected. Cucurella found Mount but his shot, hit with lovely cross-spin, curled just wide of the far post.

In between, James hit a cross deep which eluded everybody but fell to Sterling wide on the left.

He had good sight of goal but delayed pulling the trigger and a defender got in the way. Thankfully, for Potter and Chelsea, he didn't make that mistake the next time.

Just three minutes after the restart, Chelsea got the break their pressure deserved. James put Mount away on the right and Salzburg's defence failed to deal with his low cross.

So did Aubameyang, whose footwork fortuitously — or brilliantly, take your pick on intent — let Sterling receive the ball in significant space on the left. This time he made no mistake, firing



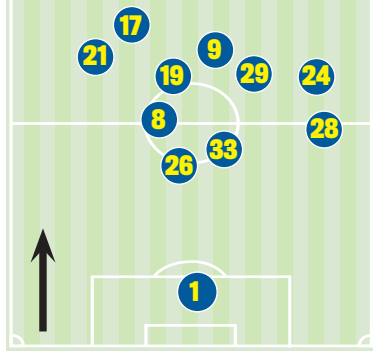
Tribute and tribulation: a Chelsea Pensioner brings out a wreath (left) to honour the Queen before Okafor denies the Blues SHUTTERSTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

Potter's debut

POTTER WATCH: HOW HE CHANGED TUCHEL'S TACTICS

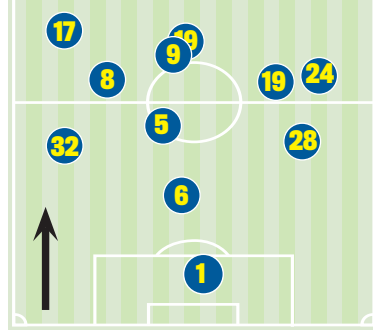
TUCHEL'S LAST GAME (AVE POSITIONS)

IN Tuchel's final game, the average position of players seemed very narrow with no clear formation or plan...



POTTER'S SYSTEM LAST NIGHT

...but Chelsea seemed to use the width of both flanks better last night — with Raheem Sterling dropping deeper to impact play.



past Salzburg goalkeeper Philipp Kohn. The Potter era was underway. But its narrative had too many echoes of the past, as James, Hakim Ziyech and Armando Broja all squandered chances to win the game late.

It's fair to say if Chelsea's current group of players formed the managerial firing squad, Claudio Ranieri would still be in charge at Stamford Bridge.

CHELSEA (4-2-3-1): Arrizabalaga 7; James 7, Azpilicueta 6.5 (Ziyech 82min), Silva 6, Cucurella 7; Kovacic 6.5 (Gallagher 81), Jorginho 7; Mount 7, Havertz 6.5 (Loftus-Cheek 66, 6.5), Sterling 7.5 (Pulisic 84); Aubameyang 6 (Broja 66, 6.5).
Scorer: Sterling 48. **Booked:** James.
Manager: Graham Potter 7.5.

SALZBURG (4-3-1-2): Kohn 7.5; Dedic 7.5, Bernardo 8, **PAVLOVIC 8**, Ulmer 6; Capaldo 6, Seiwald 6, Kjaergaard 6 (Gourna-Douath 46, 6); Sucic 6 (Kameri 70, 5.5); Sesko 6.5 (Adamu 70, 6), Okafor 6.5 (Koita 85).
Scorer: Okafor 75.
Booked: Adamu, Pavlovic, Ulmer, Capaldo.
Manager: Matthias Jaissle 6.

Referee: Ivan Kruzliak (Slovakia) 7.5.
Attendance: 38,818.

APPLAUSE ON 70 MINS FOR QUEEN

From Back Page

minute. Big screens will display images of the Queen, who passed away last week, while players will wear black armbands with flags at stadiums flying at half-mast.

Last weekend's fixtures were postponed as a mark of respect, but seven top flight matches will take place this weekend.

Sportsmail understands most clubs will draft in singers to perform the anthem, while some will play God Save the King over loudspeakers.

The Premier League's pre-match music will not be played and there will be no handshakes before games. Players from

UEFA OWN GOAL ON NATIONAL ANTHEM
Ridiculous call to refuse British clubs permission

Sportsmail yesterday on UEFA's barmy decision

both sides will walk out without accompanying music, which means the likes of Everton's Z-Cars entrance will not feature.

Advertisement boards will also display tributes to the Queen in the 70th minute, the time marking her 70 years as monarch.

The matches between Chelsea and Liverpool and Manchester United and Leeds will not take place thanks to the stretch on police resources, with vast crowds set to head to the capital ahead of Monday's funeral.

Brighton against Crystal Palace had already been postponed because of rail strikes.

Arsenal's Premier League clash with Manchester City, set for October 19, has been called off to allow the Gunners to play PSV Eindhoven in the Europa League.

Arsenal were set to play the Dutch side tonight, but with large numbers of officers working on plans for the funeral and the Queen's lying in state, it was called off.

Instead, their match against Pep Guardiola's champions has been postponed and they will now face PSV on October 20.

Milan games are crucial now, admits manager

By ADRIAN KAJUMBA
at Stamford Bridge

GRAHAM POTTER admitted Chelsea are not where they want to be and challenged his players to respond in their upcoming double header against AC Milan. The Londoners were held to a draw in Potter's first game in charge by Red Bull Salzburg to leave them bottom of Group E.

He said: 'It is not the position we want to be in but we have to respond, it's as simple as that.

'It is going to be a tough group but there's enough quality in the team and the squad to respond and we have to look forward to those games.

'Today is not the best start in terms of points for us but in terms of how we acted on the pitch, as a group, there were lots of positives.'

If ever there was an occasion for a manager to play it safe it was this one for Potter, whose team were already on the back foot after losing to Dinamo Zagreb.

But if there is one thing that is clear about Potter it is that the easy option is not an option.

There was certainly nothing predictable about his first Chelsea team selection. It had just one out-and-out centre-back and three natural full-backs, sparking a guessing game about how they would line up.

Summer signings Kalidou Koulibaly and Wesley Fofana, bought for more than £100million combined, were on the bench.

The tactical unpredictability of his sides might be worth getting used to. UEFA were among those confused. What they presented on the official team-sheet as a Chelsea 4-2-3-1 actually started out more like a 3-1-4-2, occasionally resembled a defensive four and finished with one out-and-out striker flanked by a string of attackers.

Jorginho was close by to support his centre backs and Chelsea scorer Raheem Sterling's deployment wide on the left suited him better, allowing him to drive inside dangerously.

Bravery was required, particularly in how Chelsea defended and Thiago Silva handled the responsibility of being the last man well until the costly misjudgement that led to Noah Okafor's leveller.

It might have felt all a little too familiar for former Brighton boss Potter — dominance of possession but the final part missing too often and a disappointing final result, which was not reflective of his team's performance or statistics.

He added: 'We have to dust ourselves down. The personality and application was good, we will get better.

'It's always irritating when you concede a goal. It's just the little details we have to improve.'

● CHELSEA have held talks over purchasing a Portuguese team as they consider following the multi-club models of the Red Bull group and Manchester City. Owner Todd Boehly has spoken to the club's academy manager Neil Bath and agent Jorge Mendes, who is Portuguese.

« HAALAND WINS IT LATE FOR CITY: PAGES 92-93

CHELSEA AND RANGERS DEFY UEFA AS FANS SING ANTHEM

By MIKE KEEGAN

BRITISH football paid its heartfelt respects to the Queen last night with a series of impeccably observed silences and rousing choruses of the national anthem.
As *Sportsmail* revealed they would yesterday, Rangers defied a UEFA ban by playing *God Save the King* over their public address system ahead of the Champions League clash with Napoli.
A giant mural of the Union flag, which featured a portrait of the Queen in the centre, was held aloft by supporters.
At Stamford Bridge, two Chelsea Pensioners laid a wreath on the pitch before a capacity crowd belted out their own, impromptu rendition of the national anthem as Graham Potter's side faced Red Bull Salzburg. In Manchester, fans of City and Germany's Borussia Dortmund joined in an unbroken minute's silence before their match in the Champions League while, as there were on Tuesday night, similar scenes unfolded at grounds hosting Football League fixtures.
Rangers, Chelsea and City had requested permission to play the national anthem, only to be turned down by European football's governing body. It remains to be seen whether the Glasgow club will now face sanctions.
The emotional, respectful events are expected to be repeated across Premier League stadiums this weekend. Officials have announced a minute's silence will be observed at all top-flight matches, along with a round of applause in the 70th

TURN TO PAGE 95, COL 2

SUCKER PUNCH

Potter despair as Chelsea drop vital points ++ Haaland's wonder goal sinks Dortmund

Pain game: Potter grimaces as Chelsea struggle but Haaland (inset) won it late for City GETTY IMAGES

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHELSEA.....1
RB SALZBURG...1

MAN CITY.....2
B DORTMUND....1

MATCH REPORTS – SEE PAGES 92-95

Yorkshire's six-figure pay-off to axed Gale

EXCLUSIVE
By MATT HUGHES
Chief Sports Reporter

YORKSHIRE agreed a six-figure compensation package with former captain and coach Andrew Gale yesterday in a mediated settlement after conceding his claim for unfair dismissal.
The club also settled with former bowling coach Richard Pyrah, who was sacked with Gale and 14 other members of the back-room team last December in the fallout from the Azeem Rafiq racism scandal.
Yorkshire have now agreed to pay off 10 former members of staff in addition to Rafiq after conceding liability last summer, as revealed by *Sportsmail*.
In their most recent accounts, Yorkshire set aside £1.9million for 'various costs associated with the racism allegations' and the pay-offs will have major financial repercussions for the club, who have paid £200,000 to Rafiq and £300,000 to former chief executive Mark Arthur.
Gale has always denied directing any racist comments towards Rafiq.
The 38-year-old has kept quiet throughout the furore, other than to accuse the ECB of a witch-hunt and saying he would not attend their disciplinary hearing.
Yorkshire's willingness to settle means they will avoid appearing before Leeds Employment Tribunal, which had been set for October 31.
Yorkshire declined to comment last night.

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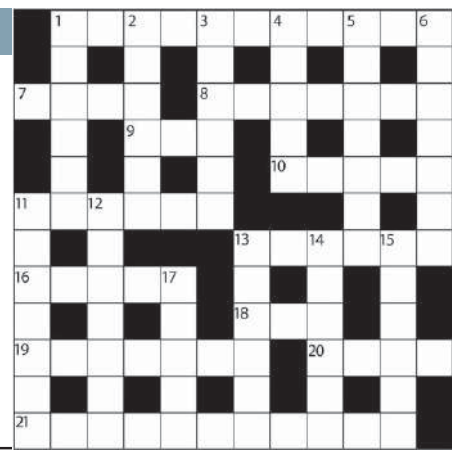
QUICK CROSSWORD 9,269

ACROSS
1 Cause to run away (3,2,6)
7 Marine mollusc (4)
8 Loser in a race or contest (4-3)
9 Something curved in shape (3)
10 Latin American dance music (5)
11 Adopt (6)
13 Within easy reach (2,4)
16 Take away (5)
18 Finish (3)
19 Endure or survive (4,3)
20 Supplies with weapons (4)
21 Ingredient used in cooking (8,3)

DOWN
1 Well-mannered (6)
2 Salad item (6)
3 Shrine of an ancient god (6)
4 Reels off (5)
5 Large ape (7)
6 Drinking vessel (7)
11 One who takes country walks (7)
12 Finishes a phone call (5,2)
13 Cut a tooth (6)
14 Tried (3,1,2)
15 Standard (6)
17 Pimples (5)

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION (NO 9,268) – ACROSS: 1 Qualms. 4 Overt. 7 Paddle boat. 8 Arid. 9 Noble. 11 Yttrium. 13 Sea bird. 15 Helen. 17 Cell. 18 Palm Sunday. 20 Small. 21 Office. DOWN: 1 Queasy. 2 Lead. 3 Sudokus. 4 Ocean. 5 Ego. 6 Title. 7 Pistol. 10 Bailey. 12 Memento. 14 Dilate. 15 Hopes. 16 Nasal. 17 Calf. 19 Lea.
SOLUTION TOMORROW



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SUDOKU

FILL in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. **SOLUTIONS TOMORROW**

3	2					4	7	
	4			5				
				8		9	6	
1	3							
		5			3			
							9	1
			1					
			7		2			3
9	5	7						

Difficulty rating ★★★★★

	2				9			
		8						
					3	6	1	
	9						8	
	7		2	4		5		
5			6			7		
1		2					4	7
				8				1
3				5	4			

Difficulty rating ★★★☆☆

PRIZE SUDOKU

5				2		3		
			6		9			
7	3					4		
		3	8	1			2	6
6	4	2						
8	7				5		3	
					2			
4	8	5						7
	6				1	5	8	3

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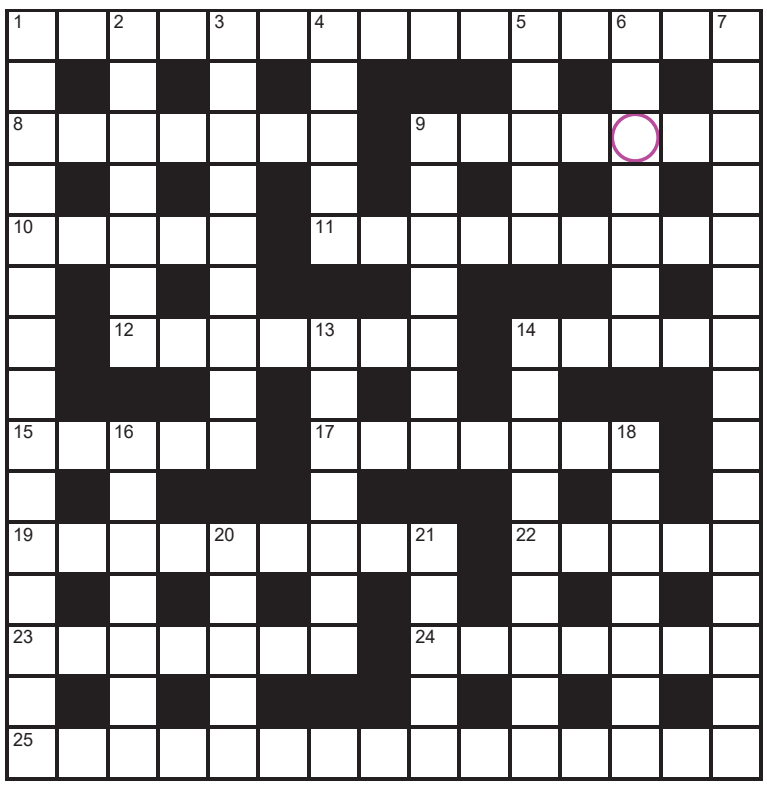
REVEAL the three shaded squares for your chance to win £500. **HOW TO ENTER:** Call **0901 292 5009** and leave today's three-number answer (reading left to right) and your details. Or text **SUDOKU** to **65700** with your answer and name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. One weekly winner chosen from all correct entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Friday. Answers change daily at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Full terms apply, see Page 74.

For news and updates visit mailplus.co.uk

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

WIN A LUXURY CROSS PEN SEE BELOW



PLAY our accumulator game! Every day this week, solve the crossword to find the letter in the pink circle. On Friday, we'll provide instructions to submit your five-letter word for your chance to win a luxury Cross pen. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply. Entries cost 50p.

WRITE YOUR LETTERS IN THESE SQUARES

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri

ACROSS

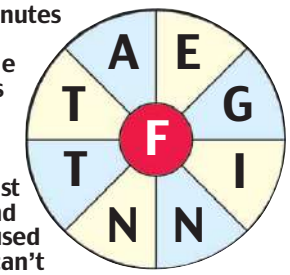
1 The process of preparing ahead to achieve one's aims, often in business or government (7,8)
8 A regular oval shape that is a closed curve (7)
9 Trusted friend of Hamlet in William Shakespeare's tragedy (7)
10 French spa town on the shores of Lake Geneva (5)
11 A letterform in typography that has no extending features at the end of its strokes (4,5)
12 The eighth astrological sign in the zodiac (7)
14 The first ever commercial jet airliner, developed by de Havilland, which first flew in 1949 (5)
15 ___ Pietersen, former England cricketer born in South Africa in 1980 (5)
17 A place of seclusion for the purposes of prayer and meditation (7)
19 Gymnastic troupe that won the fourth series of Britain's Got Talent in 2010 (9)
22 A mound of rough stones built as a memorial or landmark, typically on a hilltop or skyline (5)
23 An arrangement whereby one has the right to live in a building in exchange for rent (7)
24 ___ strength, that of a material when being stretched to the point before breaking (7)
25 One who studies or collects coins and medals (15)

DOWN

1 British choreographer born in 1904 who became director of the Royal Ballet (9,6)
2 Mass meetings of people making a political protest (7)
3 A long wooden wind instrument used for signalling in the Swiss mountains (9)
4 The remnants of a liquid left in a container (5)
5 Female beings who create and control fate in Norse mythology (5)
6 ___ accounts, a set of financial statements for part of a financial year (7)
7 Expression meaning 'to start talking about something only slightly related to the subject under discussion' (2,3,2,1,7)
9 A piece of printed information provided for free, often with a talk or to advertise something (7)
13 The offence of affirming the truth of a statement in court which one knows to be false (7)
14 A musical direction meaning 'gradually increasing in loudness' (9)
16 Asian country whose official national currency is the dong (7)
18 The capital of the Caucasian republic of Georgia (7)
20 Jeff, Welsh fashion designer who launched his own label in 1969 (5)
21 In the same manner or likewise (5)

SOLUTION TOMORROW

WORD WHEEL



YOU have ten minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each word must use the hub letter and at least three others, and letters may be used only once. You can't use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. Verbs ending in 's' permitted. Clue for today's nine-letter word: On the increase if tangent deflected. RATING: 8 words, average; 12, good; 16, very good; 18 or more, excellent. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

SUDOKU X

				6	
3		1			
				2	
	5				
			6		

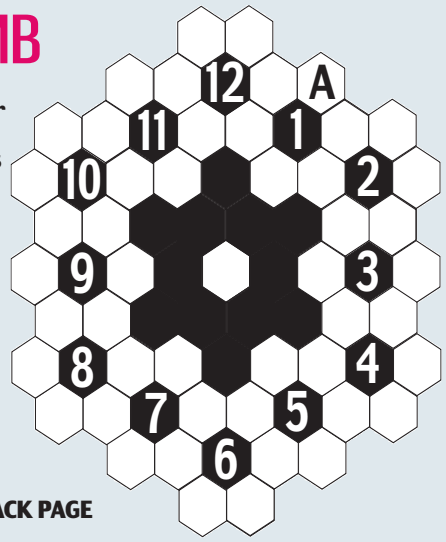
PUT 1-6 once in each row, column, diagonal (highlighted to form an X) and horizontal 3x2 box (ruled). **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

HONEYCOMB

ALL the solutions read clockwise around their numbers. The solution to clue number 1 starts from the given letter.

1. Painter
2. Threefold
3. Maggots
4. Revs
5. Even
6. Passionate
7. Dent
8. Package
9. Taper
10. Approached
11. A currency
12. Explodes

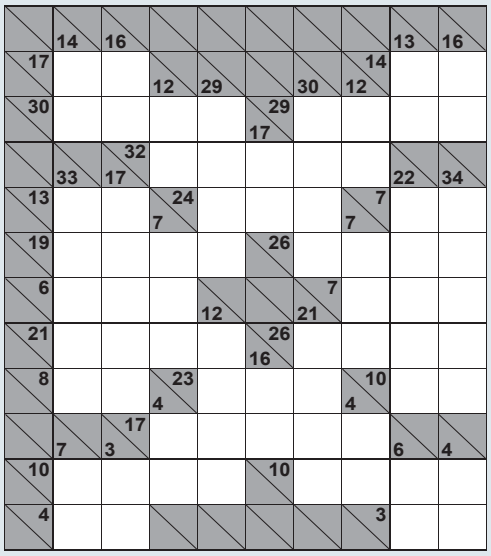
SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

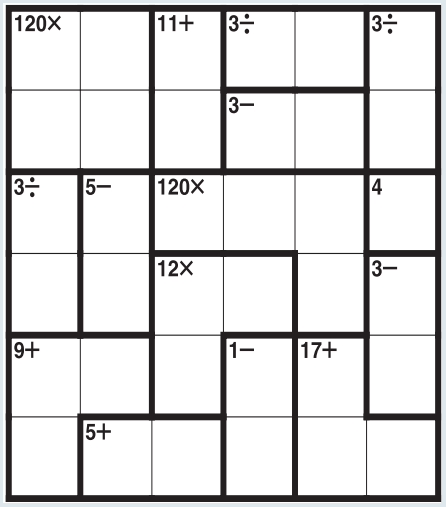


KAKURO

FILL in the blank squares of the grid using only the numbers 1 to 9, without repeating any number in any line of blank squares. The lines must be filled in with numbers which add up to the total in the shaded box at the top or beginning of each line. A number in the bottom half of a shaded box gives a downwards total; in the top half, it's a horizontal total.

SOLUTION TOMORROW





MASTERQUIZ

1. What name is given to the feast of the Christian church observed on the 40th day after Easter?

2. Which French city is the capital of the Somme department?

3. Which green vegetable of the genus Brassica is often called a German turnip?

4. Which marine mammal, believed to have inspired tales of mermaids and sirens, has been declared extinct in China?

5. Which U.S. author wrote Poor White and Winesburg, Ohio?

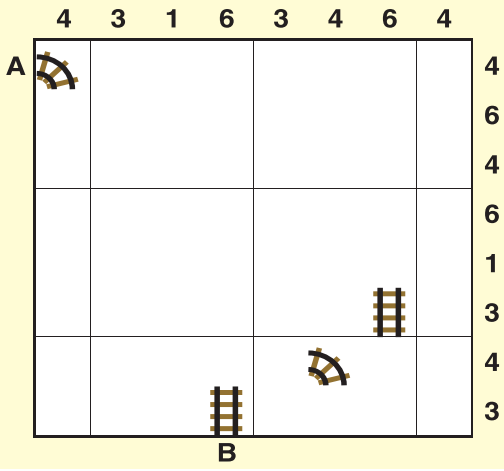
6. Who was Harold II's brother who fought against him at the Battle of Stamford Bridge?

SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

TRAIN TRACKS

LAY tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

SOLUTION TOMORROW



MINDBENDER

1. If Pete had one-and-a-quarter times as many chips as he has, he would have twice as many as if he lost 42 of them. How many chips does Pete have?

2. What connects money, sinner and penalty?

3. Which newspaper owner might LACK CAR BOND?

4. Which is the odd one out: elective, votive, pillar, container?

5. Rearrange the letter groups to make three former prime ministers: WIL ALD SAY ERL RAM ECH HAR MAC SON AMB AIN NEV OLD DON ILL.

SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

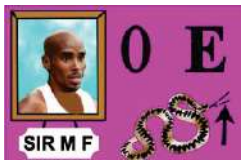
PITCHERWITS™

PIT your wits against Pitcherwits — the exciting puzzle where some of the answers are in pictures! The solutions to the visual clues fit into the shaded spaces on the grid.

SOLUTION TOMORROW

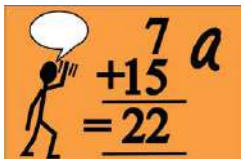
1a. From now on, the throne is reallocated to the chef (10)

9a. Awkward moment of a thwarted bid to join the A-team (1,3,4)

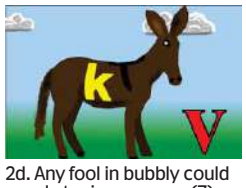


11a. Famous painting of Somalian artistry (4,4)

17a. Eager one, in attempt to show up a piece of jet? (4,6)



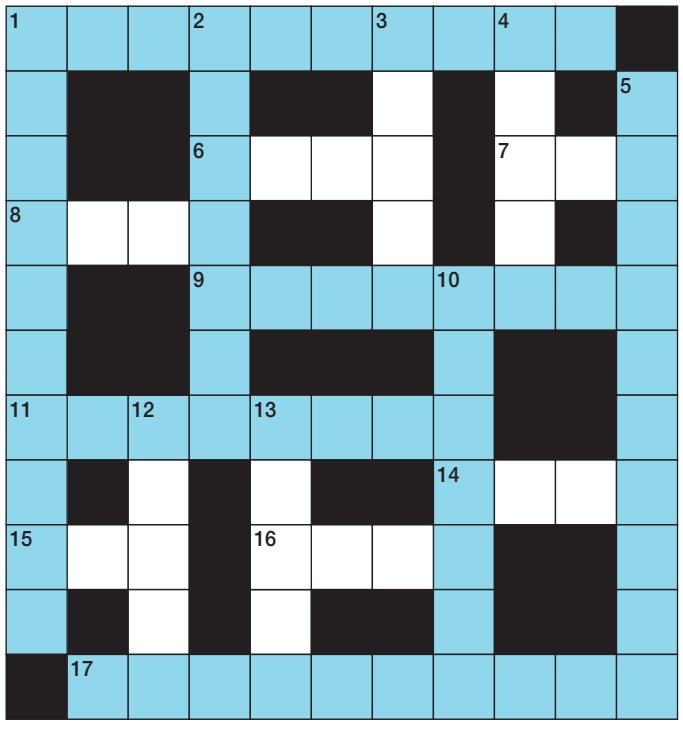
1d. 'Him and her' mugs, thrown in time of warmth (4,6)



2d. Any fool in bubbly could supply tapioca source (7)

5d. Satisfactory, organised, capable etc (10)

10d. Ripping granite apart (7)

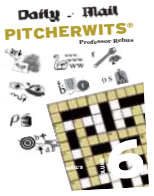


ACROSS
1 Picture Clue
6 Singing or flying, you're alone in mapping out Oslo (4)
7 Grimacing slightly at the coat (3)
8 'Aspen' talk? (4)
9 Picture Clue
11 Picture Clue
14 Job list said to do the rounds? (4)
15 Viewed from within, she's a woolly one (3)
16 Three wise ones in an imaginary four (4)
17 Picture Clue

DOWN
1 Picture Clue
2 Picture Clue
3 No empty space in which to be roughly elliptical (5)
4 Speeds that can make me go back into the pit (5)
5 Picture Clue
10 Picture Clue
12 Relative belittled by meanie censorship (5)
13 Forgotten state for member? That's nothing! (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION — ACROSS: 1 Superimpose. 5 Wayside. 9 Loss. 10 Room. 11 Totem. 12 Aria. 13 Iota. 14 In a stew. 16 Assignments. **DOWN:** 1 Still camera. 2 Paw. 3 Ode. 4 Encompasses. 6 Abstain. 7 Sixties. 8 Dormice. 14 Its. 15 Win.

PITCHERWITS BOOK



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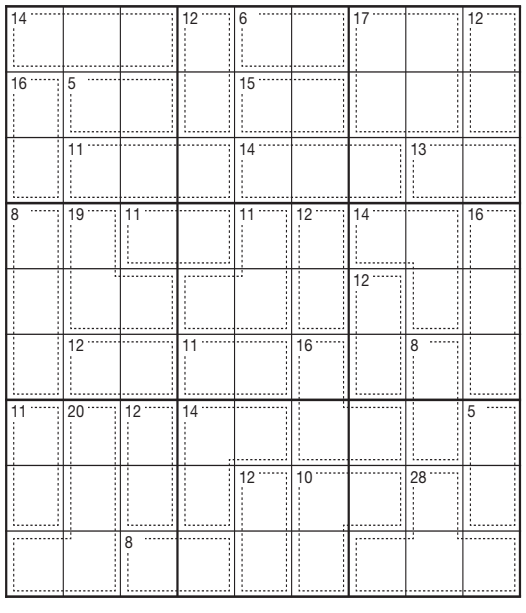
KILLER SUDOKU

FILL in squares in the grid so each row, column and each 3x3 square contains all digits from 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the number in the top-left corner. Numbers can't be repeated within each set of cells.

SOLUTION TOMORROW

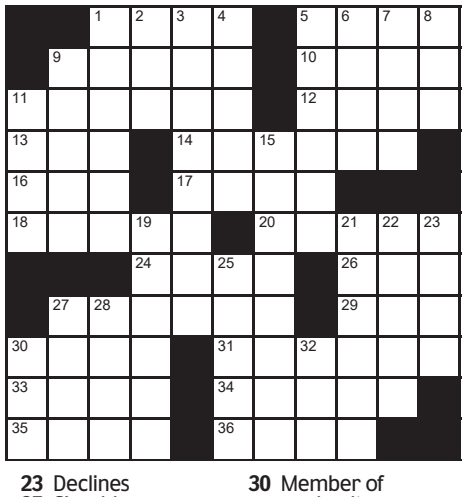
NEED A CLUE? Call **0901 293 6238** or text **KILLER** to **65700** and receive four clues to today's puzzle. Calls and texts cost £1 plus your standard network charges. Today's clues available between 00.01 today and 23.30 only.



MAILWORD NEW

ACROSS
1 Went by plane
5 Dairy product
9 Search with the hands
10 Needle case
11 Source
12 Seabird
13 Came first
14 Plot
16 Drag with effort
17 The Buckeye State
18 Pay out
20 Non-poetic text
24 Afflicts
26 Round loaf
27 Male domestic feline
29 Young fox
30 Masculine
31 Disproves
33 October birthstone
34 Chart
35 Resist
36 Detect

DOWN
1 Border
2 Caber
3 In instalments
4 Servant girl (archaic)
5 Shooting star
6 Object
7 Enticement
8 Family
9 Assemblage
11 Nocturnal predators
15 Trendy people
19 Specifically
21 Inhabit
22 Compass point
23 Declines
25 Sizeable
27 Ribbon
28 Disney snowman
30 Member of a subculture in the 1960s
32 Bread roll



SOLUTION TOMORROW

QUICK QUIZ

1. The rand is the unit of currency of which country?

2. Which author wrote the best-selling 2015 novel The Girl On The Train?

3. New comedy action film The Greatest Beer Run Ever is set during which historical conflict?

4. What type of vegetable is known in America as a zucchini?

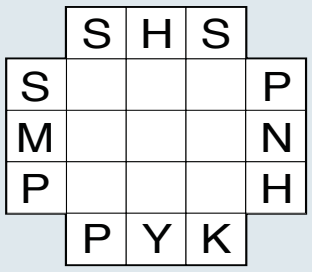
5. What object is held in the right hand of the statue on top of London's Old Bailey?

SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

KENKEN

EACH row and column should contain 1 to 6 without repeats. Numbers in cages must combine to produce the target number shown at start of that cage using, in any order, the mathematical sign given. Single-box cages can be filled with the number given.

SOLUTION TOMORROW



COURTROOM

NINE TO FIVE

FIT the scrambled letters of the given word into the grid to form six five-letter words across and down.

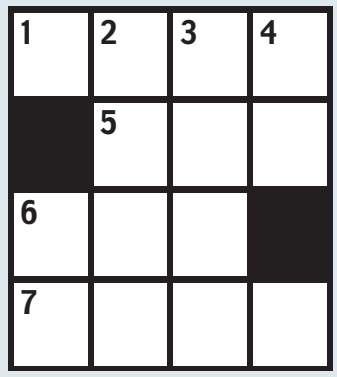
SOLUTION TOMORROW

WORLD'S SMALLEST, HARDEST CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. A peg (4)
5. Exclamation of disgust (3)
6. Turkish weight (3)
7. A rabble (4)

DOWN
2. Certain WMD (sl) (4)
3. Seaweed product (4)
4. Pituitary secretion (abbr) (2)
6. Indicating surprise (2)

SOLUTION TOMORROW



CROSS NUMBER

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION

By Linus Maurer ©2015 King Features Inc.

FILL each square with a number, 1 to 9. Horizontal squares add up to totals on right. Vertical squares add up to totals on bottom. Diagonal squares through centre add up to totals in top and bottom right.

SOLUTION TOMORROW

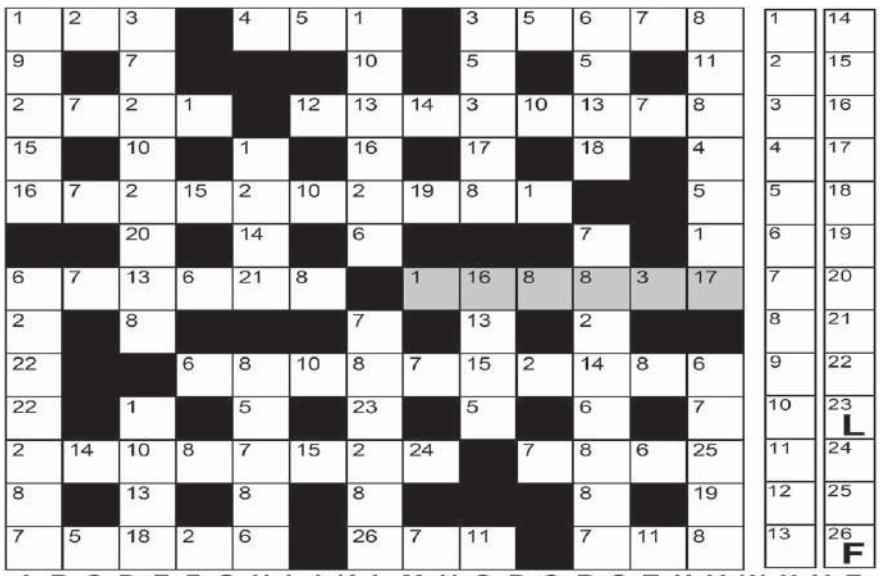
Today's challenge time: **11** mins **18** secs | Your working time: ☐ mins ☐ secs

CODEWORD

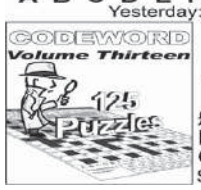
WIN £750

EACH number in our Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. Today 23 represents L, so fill in L every time the figure 23 appears. You have two letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. SOLUTION TOMORROW

COMPLETE Codeword to reveal the word in the shaded boxes.
HOW TO ENTER: Call **0901 293 6232** and leave your answer and your details or text **65700** with the word **CODE**, your answer and then your name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. One weekly winner chosen from all correct daily entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Saturday. Answers change daily at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply, see Page 74.



Yesterday: 1 H, 2 O, 3 B, 4 L, 5 E, 6 S, 7 G, 8 R, 9 N, 10 A, 11 C, 12 V, 13 I, 14 T, 15 D, 16 W, 17 F, 18 M, 19 Q, 20 U, 21 P, 22 J, 23 Y, 24 K, 25 X, 26 Z



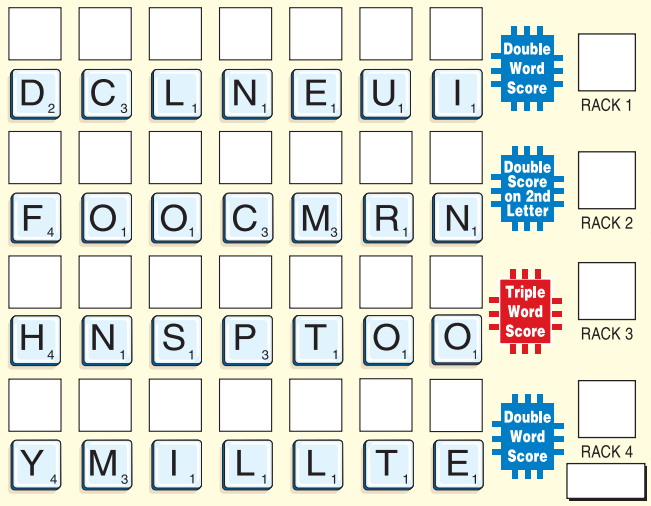
**** Volume Thirteen Now Available! ****
£6.95 (inc p&p) cheque/postal order payable to Knight Features: B207 Trident Centre, 89 Bickersteth Rd, London SW17 9SH
Credit card orders via www.codewordbook.co.uk
Selected previous volumes also available. Allow 14 days for delivery. 8408

NEED A CLUE? Text the word **CODEWORD** to **65700** to receive FOUR clues to today's puzzle or call **0901 293 6200**. Texts and calls cost £1 plus your standard network charges. Today's clues available between 00.01 today and 23.30 only.

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS

■ The board on the right shows four rows of letters from a typical Scrabble game. Use each row to form a word of 2-7 letters and write it in the blank squares provided. Then add up the score for each row. Don't forget to use the double and triple word and letter scores — and add a 50-point bonus for every 7-letter word. Blank tiles can be used for any letter but have no score. See tomorrow's paper for the solution.

SCRABBLE® and SCRABBLE® Tiles are registered trademarks. All rights in the game are owned in the USA by Hasbro Inc, in Canada by Hasbro Canada Inc, and elsewhere by J.W. Spear & Sons Ltd, a subsidiary of Mattel, Inc.



PAR SCORE 160-170 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

Yesterday's solution:
IMITATE 68
ENSLAVE 60
DOTTELS 58
FASHION 71
JUDD'S TOTAL: 257

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WORD SEARCH

WIN £500

THE listed words can all be found in the grid — running forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally — EXCEPT ONE. For a chance to win, discover which word from the list can't be found in the Word Search.

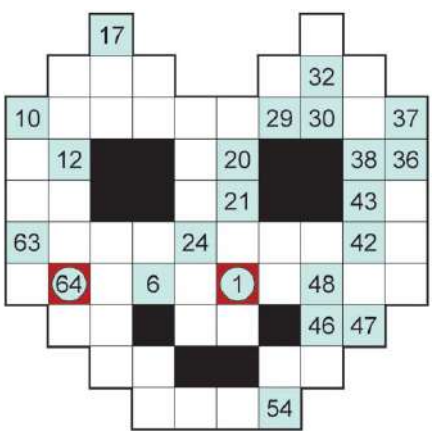
R	F	I	R	E	B	U	A	S
E	J	E	Z	S	B	J	H	I
N	M	F	R	Q	A	P	H	R
A	J	M	S	R	C	A	Z	U
U	C	T	S	L	A	P	H	A
L	L	U	B	D	E	R	S	T
T	E	N	I	P	L	A	I	A
N	A	D	R	O	J	F	G	H
I	J	J	R	S	A	U	E	P
I	G	Q	N	W	E	U	R	L
O	E	M	O	R	A	F	L	A

ALFA ROMEO
ALPHATAURI
ALPINE
FERRARI
HAAS
JORDAN
MERCEDES
RED BULL
RENAULT
SAUBER

HOW TO ENTER: Call **0901 293 6234** and leave your answer and details or text **65700** with the word **WORD**, your answer and your name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. One winner chosen from all correct daily entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Friday. Answers change daily at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply, see Page 74. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

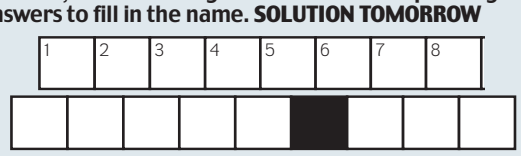
HIDATO

COMPLETE the grid so that all the numbers, 1 to 64, connect consecutively — horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Hint: you don't have to begin with 1 or 64. Working on the mid-numbers might give you a better start. SOLUTION TOMORROW



NAME GAME

HIDDEN in the grid is the name of a radio presenter. Answer the questions, then rearrange the letters corresponding to your answers to fill in the name. SOLUTION TOMORROW



BOX 1: Zoe Ball (pictured) hosts her Radio 2 show at what time?
Breakfast (A)
Drivetime (D)
Late evening (S)

BOX 2: Graeme Base wrote and illustrated which children's picture book?
Animalia (C)
Peace At Last (S)
The Rainbow Fish (U)

BOX 3: Who co-presented the BBC show Stargazing Live with Prof. Brian Cox?
Brian May (W)
Brian Conley (H)
Dara O Briain (E)

BOX 4: Heidi Range was an early part of the line-up for which girl group?
Atomic Kitten (A)
Girls Aloud (F)
The Saturdays (T)

BOX 5: Which of these describes a word with the same linguistic derivation as another word?
Exposition (G)
Cognate (N)
Motif (O)

BOX 6: Riri Williams is the alter ego of which comic book character?
Valkyrie (A)
The Invisible Woman (N)
Ironheart (M)

BOX 7: Who wrote the 1941 play Arsenic And Old Lace?
Joseph Kesselring (I)
Arthur Miller (L)
Lillian Hellman (G)

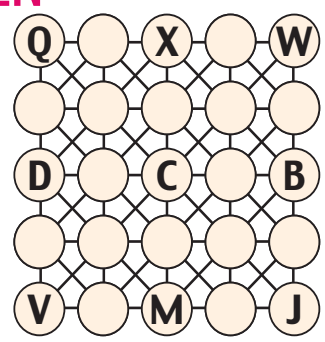
BOX 8: Killer and Crazy were among the chart hits of the 1990s for which British singer?
Sting (E)
Seal (N)
Bryan Ferry (Q)

Yesterday's answer: **MANDY MOORE** (1M, 2O, 3R, 4D, 5A, 6M, 7Y, 8O, 9N, 10E).

Picture: PA

GOGEN

DEMOB
DERV
FIG
FLIGHT
GERM
JOKED
PECK
QUICKLY
RECKON
SOLITUDE
TUCK
WAILS
WAXILY

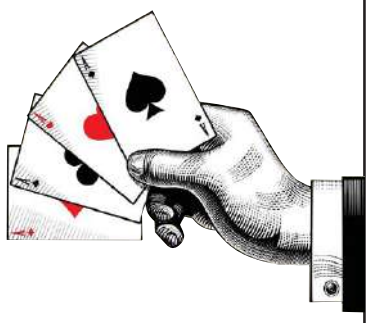


A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

INSERT letters to form listed words, moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction. Insert all remaining letters of the alphabet (except Z) in the grid so all listed words are spelt out. SOLUTION TOMORROW

Mail Puzzles

BRIDGE MASTERCLASS



South
♠ K Q J 9 6
♥ 9
♦ J 10 5
♣ J 10 8 6

PARTNER has opened 1♦, and reversed with 2♥ after your 1♠ response. What do you bid next?

FOLLOWING on from yesterday's analysis, it's your responsibility to make the most constructive and helpful response to partner, who is in control of the auction at this point.

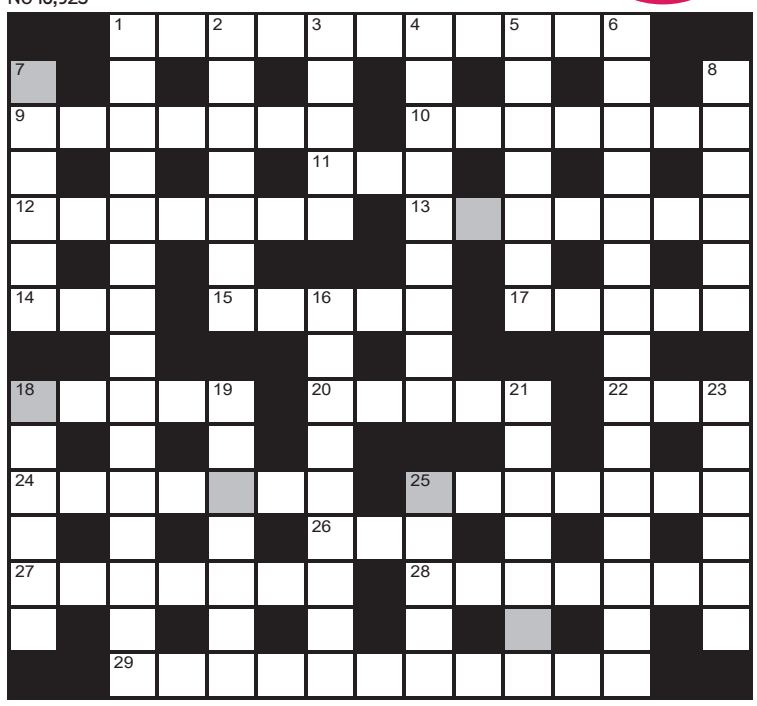
With only 8 HCPs and no first-round control, your hand is fairly weak. However, you do have three-card support for partner's longest suit and, more importantly, a singleton in his second bid suit. So you must bid 3♦. A rebid of your spades at this stage would deny support for either of partner's suits and imply a six-card suit of your own — 2NT would be more legitimate because you do at least have a club stopper, but again, this is a negative option.

PETER DONOVAN

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

WIN £500

No 16,925



ACROSS

1 Flighty deb burns bra as well as other stretchy items (6,5)
9 Puts paste on wall again or alters its dimensions (7)
10 Section of extremist rally a severe blow in France (7)
11 Service throws out Republican woman (3)
12 Big car covered by a New York spouse's maintenance (7)
13 Junior editor's job, swapping tips for odds and ends (7)
14 Head back for cask (3)
15 Lie about and yarn (5)
17 Craving debut of Gunther Grass (5)
18 Ties up boat people originally from Mauretania (5)
20 Rave about what connects Sussex to Lancashire (5)
22 Back of neck mostly showing hairs that may stand up (3)
24 Like this puzzle or some tablets? (7)
25 Weariness of old monkey running round (7)
26 Dread forgetting odd parts of rag week (3)
27 Request ballet jump champion's omitted (7)
28 Sterile spacesuit redesigned without U.S. (7)
29 Green cornfield cultivated within edges of estuary (3-8)

DOWN

1 Risky game in which only one round matters? (7,8)
2 Leave phone on holiday (4,3)
3 Try mid-west, for example (5)
4 Please do stay with me (2,2,5)
5 Cook began including very large item at Nag's Head? (7)
6 Maintain hard work in accountancy, say (7,8)
7 Bunking off, throwing tantrum nonstop (6)
8 Devoted daughter bolted perhaps (6)
16 Complaint by diner, one guarding tower (9)
18 Police cross river in Wales for weapon once (6)
19 Bendy bus froze, starter failing in such conditions? (7)
21 Supplier of oil (diesel) managed to take in north (7)
23 Buccaneering sleuth somewhat crude (6)
25 Rent lake with no bother (5)

FOR your chance to win, solve the crossword to reveal the word reading down the shaded boxes. **HOW TO ENTER:** Call **0901 293 6233** and leave today's answer and your details, or **TEXT 65700** with the word **CRYPTIC**, your answer and your name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. Or enter by post by sending completed crossword to Daily Mail Prize Crossword 16,925, PO Box 28, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GF. Please include your name and address. One weekly winner chosen from all correct daily entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Friday. Postal entries must be date-stamped no later than the following day to qualify. Calls/texts must be received by 23.59; answers change at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply, see Page 74.

NEED A CLUE? Text **TIP** to **65700** to receive FOUR answers to today's crossword, or call **0901 293 6236**. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. Today's clues available between 00.01 today and 23.30 only.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLES

SUDOKU

3	9	5	4	1	7	2	6	8
2	8	4	9	6	3	1	7	5
7	6	1	8	2	5	9	4	3
6	3	8	1	7	9	5	2	4
4	5	7	2	3	8	6	1	9
1	2	9	6	5	4	3	8	7
9	1	3	7	4	6	8	5	2
5	7	2	3	8	1	4	9	6
8	4	6	5	9	2	7	3	1

4	9	1	7	5	3	2	6	8
8	7	2	1	6	9	4	3	5
6	5	3	4	2	8	9	7	1
7	8	4	5	3	1	6	2	9
2	3	5	6	9	4	1	8	7
1	6	9	8	7	2	3	5	4
9	2	7	3	1	5	8	4	6
3	4	6	9	8	7	5	1	2
5	1	8	2	4	6	7	9	3

PRIZE SUDOKU

7	5	8	3	9	2	4	6	1
6	2	4	8	1	5	7	3	9
9	3	1	7	6	4	2	8	5
8	9	3	2	5	1	6	4	7
1	4	2	9	7	6	3	5	8
5	7	6	4	3	8	9	1	2
3	6	7	1	8	9	5	2	4
4	8	5	6	2	7	1	9	3
2	1	9	5	4	3	8	7	6

WORD SEARCH
Missing: STEVENS

A	I	N	O	T	A	T	A	C
S	J	U	P	Z	H	V	F	H
R	G	J	C	T	O	N	X	O
J	Y	D	U	F	F	Y	D	N
R	R	O	L	L	E	V	O	N
G	E	N	O	J	E	L	E	E
Q	P	L	A	G	D	B	X	W
Z	R	A	Y	L	E	G	H	G
R	X	G	H	T	R	Z	Q	E
L	E	L	B	A	S	S	E	Y
M	U	C	H	P	M	I	R	D

HIDATO

	6	8	10	47	48	49
5	4	7	9	11	46	50	51
15	14	3	12	43	41	45	52
16	18	13	2	42	44	40	53
17	19	20	21	1	37	54	39
29	28	26	23	22	36	38	55
30	27	24	25	35	58	56	60
	31	32	33	34	57	59	

KAKURO

	8	9	7		8	9	6	
7	6	8	9		9	7	4	8
9	5						1	3
	7	9	3		8	1	2	
	9	8	1	6	4	2	3	
			7	8	9			
	1	3	2	9	7	8	6	
	2	1	4		2	4	1	
1	3						3	1
2	4	1	3		1	3	2	5
	6	2	1		2	1	4	

NINE TO FIVE

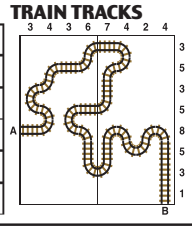
	S	P	O	
S	T	U	B	S
R	O	L	E	S
G	A	S	S	Y
	T	E	E	

ABSOLUTES

CROSS NUMBER

				25
7	9	5	6	27
5	6	8	9	28
8	7	4	5	24
4	3	6	8	21
24	25	23	28	25

TRAIN TRACKS



KENKEN

3+ 2	15× 5	10+ 4	1− 3	8− 6	1
1	3	6	2	1− 4	5
2− 6	4	10× 2	5	1 1	7+ 3
3 3	4− 1	5	3÷ 6	2	4
11+ 5	6	3÷ 1	12× 4	3	4− 2
2÷ 4	2	3	4− 1	5	6

SUDOKU X

3	5	2	4	1	6
4	6	1	2	5	3
2	1	5	3	6	4
6	3	4	1	2	5
5	2	3	6	4	1
1	4	6	5	3	2

KILLER SUDOKU

8	7	2	1	6	5	4	3	9
6	4	5	3	9	2	1	8	7
3	1	9	7	8	4	6	2	5
4	5	7	2	1	9	3	6	8
9	6	8	4	7	3	5	1	2
2	3	1	8	5	6	7	9	4
5	2	3	6	4	8	9	7	1
1	8	4	9	3	7	2	5	6
7	9	6	5	2	1	8	4	3

GOGEN

T D C X V
P W E R A
B O U Y N
J Q L G H
M I F K S

WORD WHEEL: acholia, aloha, chacma, chai, chia, chic, chica, chico, choc, choil, chola, choli, coach, hail, halm, halma, halo, holm, holmic, homa, lich, loach, loch, lochia, macho, **mailcoach**, milch, mocha, ohia, ohmic.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD
ACROSS: 1 Stand-off. 5 Orchid. 10 Impasto. 11 Envelop. 12 Trade. 13 Artillery. 14 Cameron Smith. 18 Carbon dating. 21 Brimstone. 23 Anita. 24 Onerous. 25 Indulge. 26 Sussex. 27 Retrench. **DOWN:** 1 Stilts. 2 Appeal. 3 Desperado. 4 Flog a dead horse. 6 Ravel. 7 Helvetia. 8 Diptychs. 9 Death On The Nile. 15 Santander. 16 Scabrous. 17 Trailers. 19 Violin. 20 Gareth. 22 Scone.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No. 16,922
ACROSS: 1 Ticket office. 8 Aligned. 9 Uncouth. 11 Tricolours. 12 Bird. 14 Sandbank. 16 Coarse. 17 Dim. 19 Castle. 21 Tortilla. 24 Oval. 25 Transitive. 27 Stamina. 28 Haunted. 29 Elephant's-ear. **DOWN:** 1 Tuition. 2 Cannonball. 3 End-to-end. 4 Oeuvre. 5 Face. 6 Courier. 7 Maltese cross. 10 Hidden agenda. 13 Contribute. 15 Kit. 18 Moon shot. 20 Seawall. 22 Leister. 23 Arcana. 26 Wimp.

MAILWORD
ACROSS: 1 Mega. 5 Togas. 10 Salad. 11 Earth. 12 Adage. 13 Skate. 14 Gab. 15 Nit. 17 Vie. 18 Amok. 20 Reject. 22 Receded. 24 Stay on. 26 Tick. 29 Pot. 30 Hew. 32 Gun. 33 Aside. 35 Aggro. 37 Scour. 38 Inert. 39 Mange. 40 Fury. **DOWN:** 1 Madam. 2 Elaboration. 3 Gag. 4 Aden. 5 Tested. 6 Oak. 7 Grave-digger. 8 Attic. 9 Sheet. 10 Saga. 16 Irene. 19 Key. 21 Jet. 23 Cohere. 24 Spasm. 25 Tosca. 27 Curry. 28 Knot. 31 Waif. 34 Dug. 36 Gnu.*

SMALLEST, HARDEST CROSSWORD — ACROSS: 1 Ear. 4 Hyle. 5 Eros. 6 Daw. **DOWN:** 1 Eyra. 2 Alow. 3 Res. 4 He'd.

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

www.30secondchallenge.com

START on left with number given and follow instructions as you go across. In 30 seconds, beginners have to complete their own challenge; intermediates have to complete their own challenge and the beginner's; advanced players have to complete their own challenge and the intermediate's. SOLUTION BELOW

											YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	38	÷19	TIMES ITSELF	×80	½ OF IT	+8	÷12	×4	DOUBLE IT	÷7	
Intermediate	21	×11	+9	7/12 OF IT	75% OF IT	+38	9/13 OF IT	×4	2/3 OF IT	25% OF IT	
Advanced	61	-36	×3 3/5	LESS 30%	×25	33 1/3% OF IT	LESS 20%	8/14 OF IT	2 ½% OF IT	×99	

SOLUTIONS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES

QUICK QUIZ:
1 South Africa. 2 Paula Hawkins. 3 Vietnam War. 4 Courgette. 5 Sword.

MINDBENDER: 1 112. 2 They may all be saved. 3 Conrad Black. 4 Elective; the others are types of candle. 5 Harold Wilson, Neville Chamberlain, Ramsay MacDonald.

MASTERQUIZ: 1 Ascension Day. 2 Amiens. 3 Kohlrabi. 4 Dugong. 5 Sherwood Anderson. 6 Tostig.

HONEYCOMB:
1 Artist. 2 Triple. 3 Larvae. 4 Vrooms. 5 Smooth. 6 Torrid. 7 Dimple. 8 Parcel. 9 Candle. 10 Neared. 11 Rouble. 12 Bursts.

KUROSU:

X	O	X	O	X	O
X	O	X	X	O	O
O	X	O	X	O	X
O	O	X	O	X	X
X	X	O	X	O	O
O	X	O	O	X	X

30-SECOND CHALLENGE:
Beginner: 16.
Intermediate: 66.
Advanced: 594.

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